

EL SHATT



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25 May 1944

TO: Mr. Laird Archer, Acting Chief of Mission
FROM: S. K. Jacobs, Field Organizer and Inspector

I herewith submit a report covering the information on El Shatt requested in the questionnaire sent out by the Refugee Camp Unit, Bureau of Areas, Washington.

Attached to the report are the requested forms in use at the camp, with samples of the camp publication and personnel roster, blueprint of the camp and a chart showing the integration of the camp and refugee administrative positions.

Distribution unless notified to the contrary will be as follows:

1st copy	--	to Washington
1 copy	--	UNRRA Headquarters
2 copies	--	MERRA
1 copy	--	Major Langman
1 copy	--	to be retained for my personal files.

Attachments

S. K. Jacobs

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INFORMATION REQUESTED BY REFUGEE CAMP UNIT
BUREAU OF AREAS
ON
E L S H A T T C A M P

I. POPULATION OF CAMP

A. Is the present population static and does it fill the available facilities to capacity? If not, are more arrivals expected?

The population is not static and the present camps are not filled to capacity. More arrivals are expected and the area available for expansion is limitless - in fact the Sinai desert. + (25,000)

B. What are the sources of the refugees and the criteria of selection? Who arranges for their admission to the camp?

The refugees come from the Dalmatian Coast and the islands in the vicinity of Split (HVAR, BROG, VIS, etc.) Some of these have been removed from the islands by the Allies for military reasons, others are women, children, old or disabled persons evacuated from Yugoslavia by the Government of National Liberation. The criteria of selection are left up to Tito's authorities in Yugoslavia and Bari, Italy where there is a GNL Mission. ~~They are not to be admitted to the camp unless they are~~

~~admitted to the camp~~ Admission to the camp is arranged by Middle East Refugee and Relief Administration (MEERRA), but from the time they leave their homeland until they arrive in the camp itself the refugees are entirely a military responsibility. The refugees are almost

+ A recent survey has indicated that the available water supply will limit the camp population to 25,000;

entirely Roman Catholics with perhaps all others representing 1%. The refugees at El Shatt came by way of Italy under British Naval Escort and disembarked at Port Said, proceeded by rail to Port Twefik, and crossed the canal by lighters to the El Shatt docks.

C. What are the admission procedures? Are all individuals registered upon admission? Is information obtained from refugees as to their education, previous occupation, special skills, hobbies, etc.?

D. Are refugees classified for assignment to camps and to quarters within the camp by family units, children, single men or women, or other classifications? What classifications are used?

(C & D) On arrival the refugees in family units, are usually already grouped by villages. They are then led by villages to the camp where they assemble at the Registration Centers. At the Registration Centers the refugees are inspected; they and their clothing are disinfected. They are issued stamped fibre identity (numbered) discs, registered, and assigned to tents. As soon as possible, with the aid of tent lists furnished by the tent leaders, full registry is done in triplicate, one copy (printed in black ink) remaining at Camp Headquarters, one copy (green ink) goes to Central Registry; one copy (red ink) goes to the camp Quartermaster. These forms have the following information: Name, Number, Date of Birth, Place of

Birth, Place of Residence (in Yugoslavia), camp number, tent number, sex, occupation, date of registration, nationality, religion, list of all other members of the immediate family with their names, numbers, ages, and relationships to the individual. There is one set of forms for every refugee in camp.

II. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAMP

A. Approximate area and brief description of site; distance and population of nearest town or center of local government.

El Shatt is located in the Sinai Desert and covers several square miles. Camp 2 is located across the canal from Suez and camps 1, 3, and staff headquarters are about 4 miles farther north along the same side of the canal. In between are the engineers, who do the engineering and construction work for the camp and the Transportation Section which serves the entire camp. Suez (population 30,000) is about 10 miles away by road.

B. Description of permanent structures, giving their number, size, capacity, use, type of construction (wood, stone, stucco, brick, etc.), method of heating, method of lighting, brief description of equipment.

Permanent structures

3 stone huts:

- (1) Dental clinic with army dental equipment
- (2) Stores Headquarters with usual army equipment
- (3) Camp Headquarters with regular army office equipment.

1 stone hut - British Other Ranks Mess.
Army mess equipment

1 stone building - Staff mess consisting of lounge, mess hall and kitchen. Lounge equipped with ancient and new magazines, bar stocked with Egyptian liquor, and mess hall with barely adequate facilities.

1 Stone Bath house - Staff and B. O. R. shower rooms

Main Hospital (brick)

2 Wards (22 beds in each), central kitchen, medical store room, nursing office, waiting room, administrative office, hygiene office, pharmacy and dispensary.

Start here

2 brick buildings (under construction)

(1) Children's Ward (50-beds)

(2) Adults' Ward (50 beds)

1 brick maternity ward (18 beds)

All hospital buildings have as much standard hospital equipment as it ^{been} ~~is~~ possible to obtain.

1 cement building used by Central Committee with offices, auditorium, printing room, sewing room, and kitchen.

Camp I:

9 small corrugated iron stone huts.

5 kitchens, each equipped to cook for 1200 people. Kitchen contains six 72" Diesel oil ovens and fifteen 10-gallon Soyer stoves used for boiling and stewing and which burn cotton seed cakes. The kitchens contain a bread room, an air-ventilated vegetable room, and a meat room with ice chests.

Brick buildings - one bath house with 56 showers.

Camp II:

5 kitchens

1 NAAFI auditorium

1 stone headquarters building

1 stone staff mess

1 bath house

Camp III:

5 kitchens
1 bath house

All permanent structures have cement floors, corrugated iron roofs, are lighted by hurricane and pressure lamps, and heated by nature.

C. Description of: Living quarters; dining quarters; kitchens; privies; baths or showers; laundry; infirmary, hospital, and isolation wards (including number of beds available in each); school; chapel; recreation hall; administrative or office buildings; staff quarters; community store or canteen; power house; warehouses and store rooms; farming, dairy, or livestock buildings; workrooms; garage; repair shops; jail or guard-house; others.

The basic unit of all housing is the 18' x 20' EPIP (English Personnel Indian Pattern) tent. Two of these tents joined together make up the ordinary living quarters for all refugees. There are about 900 of these tents to a camp. [Camps 1 and 2 have tile or cement floors in the tents.] Camp 3 and headquarters have desert floors but will soon be tiled. Each camp is divided into 5 districts with about 64 double tents to the district and an average of 18 refugees to the double tent. Headquarters staff live in single tents in two compounds (one male, one female). Refugee dining quarters adjoin the various cookhouses and consist of long lines of cement-legged terrazzo-topped tables with concrete-based wooden benches and a tile floor. The whole pavillion is tented over and seats, on the average, 600. Privies, both seating and squatting type, are corrugated deep-trench latrines.

106
16
686
106
1696

Shower buildings and kitchens already noted; no laundry as yet, though this is projected; in addition to the hospital facilities already mentioned, there are 4 blocks of tents (8 to the block) with a capacity of 192 beds. Two of the blocks are isolation wards and two for overflow. In addition there is a nurses school, an eye clinic, a 6-slab mortuary, ^(under construction) a distributing kitchen for the auxiliary buildings and patients who are confined to their own tents. Each camp has an M.I. (Medical Inspection) compound consisting of medical, surgical, dispensary, and child-welfare tents. Each camp has about 30 to 35 double tents (and no equipment) for schools. The church consists of 5 double tents with equipment made by the refugee artisans. There are no powerhouses, warehouses, farming, dairy, or livestock buildings, and no jails or guardhouses. Work rooms are made of tents; garage and repair shops consist of one transport headquarters (stone hut), 3 open air sheds, and one cement grease pit. Stores and quartermaster stocks are piled in compounds with barbed wire apron-faced fences.

D. Acreage not occupied by buildings:

1. Acreage used for gardening, farming, or husbandry.

None as yet, though a farming project is under way.

2. Acreage used for playgrounds, sports, or recreation fields.

There is plenty of acreage for playgrounds, sports, or recreation fields. Each camp has a central playground covering approximately 5 acres, and the open desert surrounding the camps is used for playfields.

E. Fire control: Equipment available, and methods of fire prevention or fire fighting. Are the buildings insured, and if so, by whom and to what extent? Are there fire escapes?

The available equipment is not extensive. Some large extinguishers on wheels are kept in the Q. compounds. Hand extinguishers are located in strategic places. There are fire squads on duty in each camp, and when brought up to full strength will consist of a crew of 8 to each line of tents. Once a tent starts to burning, it is almost impossible to save. The approved fire-fighting method is to cut down and collapse the burning tent and throw sand on it; meanwhile adjacents are cut down and hauled away. There is no insurance on any of the equipment as it is all War Department stuff. No fire escapes necessary.

F. Sanitation

1. Source and nature of water supply; provisions for decontamination.

Water is drawn from the Sweet Water Canal, decontaminated in a filter plant built and operated by the British War Department and piped to 25,000 gallon water towers in the camp. From there it flows to 1500 gallon tanks at the cookhouse, bath house, ablution blocks, etc. The daily ration is 9-10 gallons per head.

2. Facilities for sewage disposal

The present facilities for sewage disposal are deep trench latrines and sumps. Projected is a sewage system to transport fluid waste into the canal.

3. Facilities for garbage disposal.

At present garbage is removed by contractors and carted into the desert where it is buried in the sand. This is not a satisfactory arrangement. The solution might be to enlarge incinerator facilities (now in use only at hospital and dispensaries) or to raise pigs.

4. Provisions for daily sanitary inspection.

The hygiene personnel are perhaps the most over-worked of all the camp staff. There is not

enough trained personnel to cope with the problems, and the nature of the work makes it difficult to keep regular refugee sanitation squads. There are five reasons why hygienic conditions at El Shatt are below standard.

1. Location
2. Ignorance
3. Lack of supply
4. Lack of trained personnel
5. Lack of adequate refugee sanitation squads.

Since the problem of hygiene is one of the most disturbing of all the aspects of camp life, it cannot be out of place to amplify these five points.

Location:

El Shatt Refugee Camp is built on sour ground. For the last five years that entire area has been the camping/grounds of large number of troops who were stationed there because of the strategic importance of the canal, or who were in transit to the fighting front of the Western Desert. Two of the three camps actually occupy the identical sites of former transit camps since a good many permanent buildings were ready for immediate use. But the lack of micro-organisms in the sand makes decomposition of waste matter ~~very slow process, and any polluted area is considered~~
~~by the refugees as a dead homeland.~~

Ignorance:

A large percentage of the refugees, being in an entirely different locale, have come face to face with problems

of hygiene of whose importance they are not fully aware. ~~The necessity of a determined fly extermination campaign has not been appreciated; the necessity of proper use of the latrine has not been appreciated; the necessity of proper disposal of waste material has not been appreciated.~~ To the farmer's wife who for five decades has been used to throwing garbage to the live stock and slinging waste water out the kitchen door, severe criticisms of such practices at El Shatt seem unreasonable. A large number of children make sanitation a particularly difficult problem. A good many of them are very informal about personal hygiene since some of the latrines are either too far away or too strange for juveniles to use. It is difficult to convince them that an exacting ritual for using the latrines is a matter of life and death to the general population. Latrine flaps are constantly left open, swill bins are improperly used, fly proof doors are left open, litter is carelessly disposed of, and the lethal potentiality of the fly has never been fully understood. It is not unusual to walk into a tent and see a baby's exposed face black with flies. The answer to this is an extensive educational campaign by the camp staff and the Central Committee which up to now

| *more*

has not materialized sufficiently for lack of trained headquarters staff and lack of refugees who are fully aware of the inherent dangers to the common group.

Lack of supply:

Lack of supplies is another critical matter. Camp 3 tents have no floors whatsoever which makes tent sanitation inefficient. It is difficult to instill a feeling for home cleanliness to people who sleep or sit all day long in the sand. Moreover a good deal of water is used to wet down the sand, a practice which is perfectly logical to both the refugee who dislikes sand blowing about, and to the fly who is interested in increasing his number. There is a severe shortage of fly-fighting equipment. Fly traps have been ingeniously devised by the workshop artisans from petrol tins and scrap screening, but now there is no more screening. There is little netting of any kind to cover the babies' faces, doorways, or windows, and no wire mesh whatsoever. There are no fly swatters, practically no spray guns, and no spraying fluid of any kind. Amateur executioners have experimented with compounding spray fluid from paraffin (kerosene), petrol, and flea powder, but it is too early to discover whether they have hit upon a magic formula. Pyrethrum, unobtainable in the Middle East, is essential for fly spray. Poison cups made

could be permitted the refugees was pocket money. It was reasonably taken for granted that since the soldiers of Tito were fighting for nothing, the non-combatants should accept the same condition. A great many, but not all, refugees understand the political significance of this policy. In the first place some of the refugees were islanders removed merely for allied military reasons and who do not have an equal understanding of this policy as do the refugees from the Dalmatian Coast. This could be rectified by a long term educational program on the part of the refugee administration. Secondly, to be successful, this policy must be based on a work program involving 100% of the available manpower. This is not the case, and not likely to be so in the near future. Thirdly, the same understanding of the significance of the problem cannot be compared with the partisan fighters in Yugoslavia, for while Tito's men are giving their lives to drive the fascists from Yugoslavia, they have the advantage of a sustained morale motivated by victories over the enemy, a high esprit-de-corps and the enormous satisfaction of recovering their own beloved homeland. It is almost impossible to sustain morale on an equally high level in an isolated group living in a discouraging and alien terrain and who are rarely

inspired with any nationalist feeling of being actual participants in the struggle to liberate their country. It is true that most of the working population gets compensation by an extra issue of bread (4 oz.), and in some cases 10 cigarettes, a day. The program of pocket money has short comings. The sanitation squads have the most unpleasant duties of any camp workers. It is also the most important duty in camp. It is a thankless and endless job, and needs trained and regular squads to do it efficiently. Now there is large labor turnover and as often as not an adequate number of hygiene personnel fails to show up at all. The solution of this problem is to elevate the importance of this work; inaugurate an intensive educational program on the political and hygienic importance of this work, and to give a course of training to all refugee hygiene personnel for the two-fold purpose of developing leaders and instructing the squads in the most efficient way of maintaining sanitary camp conditions.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. To what extent do the local governmental authorities have jurisdiction over the camp?

The same control for all citizens of Egypt applies to El Shatt. Civil law covers the entire refugee population and should one of them tangle with the law, he would be tried by the Egyptian courts. Visas have not been issued

to the refugees since they are theoretically in transit. In an agreement with the British authorities, some restrictions have been imposed on the camp by the Egyptian Government. The refugees are confined to the Sinai Peninsula; no publicity of any sort (newspapers, radio, or periodicals) concerning the camp can be released in Egypt. The government assumes that its people would take a distant view of 18,000 aliens living off native supplies if they found out about the camps existence. (Actually all supplies are brought in by the British Army, with fresh vegetables being contracted for by the Army and with the Egyptian Government's permission.)

B. Relationship to other national authorities (i.e., Greek Government-in- Exile, British Government)

Up to May 1st, H. B. M. Government has been supporting the camp and has taken charge of all the administrative details. There is an undefined responsibility for the camp by the semi-official Government of National Liberation. The leaders (Central Committees) were selected by the GNL Dalmatian Regional Committee which instructed them. Contact is maintained by reports which go back from the Committee to Yugoslavia and by visiting Yugoslavian military personnel who visit the camp from time to time. All details of evacuating the

refugees are handled by the British authorities and the GNL's mission in Bari, Italy.

C. Relationship to military authorities.

The military authorities are responsible within military limitations for the provision of essential supplies, services, and necessary military personnel.

D. Relationship of local welfare agencies to the camp.

A small amount of old clothing has been donated by the Suez Chapter of the British Red Cross. |

E. Relationship to cooperating private voluntary agencies or to National Red Cross Societies.

There are several co-operating voluntary agencies who have provided personnel for the camp and in some cases money and supplies. They work with the military staff and are under the direction of MERRA. MERRA draws on them thru COBSRA (Council of British Society for Relief Abroad) which has offices in Cairo and London. The main office in London has a master list from the various societies giving particulars on the number of people available for work abroad, their qualifications, and the type of work they wish to do. Requests from MERRA for personnel are handled by the Cairo office which puts in a requisition on the London office. Transportation is co-ordinated by the two offices. On arrival here the personnel usually goes

through a training course at the MERRA School at Maadi and sent out from there. Though the relationship of the voluntary agencies to UNRRA has not been clearly defined as yet, the Allied Military Liaison group has been counting on them to provide personnel for work in the Balkans. The contributing agencies to the camp are briefly discussed below:

Friends' Ambulance Unit comprises the largest body of workers from a voluntary agency. Many of them have been in the Middle East for two or more years; a few of them have received specialized training in England and they occupy different posts at the camp.

The Order of St. John and British Red Cross have been combined in one organization during the war. The women of this organization most of them trained workers, are primarily concerned with nutrition, child welfare, hygiene and clinics. The British Red Cross has contributed some second-hand clothing, some hospital and welfare equipment and it is possible that money will be contributed. The St. John's Ambulance Brigade will probably donate nothing now, since they specialize in ambulances and equipment for field operation.

Save the Children Fund: This organization, which has offices in Cairo as well as in England has sent both trained personnel and a small amount of baby

clinic equipment to the camp.

International Volunteer Society for Peace: The IVSP has sent personnel to El Shatt. Most of these people were doing land army or relief work in England before they came here.

There are three American organizations that have taken an active interest in the Yugoslav camp. The most important of these being the American Red Cross. Almost 60,000 garments valued at more than \$130,000 have been earmarked for the Yugoslav camp. The problem of clothing women and children has been left almost entirely to the American Red Cross and so far they have outfitted about 9,000 people (Camp I - 4,000; Camp II -- 2,000; Camp III (not yet completed) - 3,000). The garments are all hand made and brand new. The quality of the goods is as high as that of the best to be bought in America. Distribution is done by chits issued by the Camp Committee to the neediest women and children. After the American Red Cross clothes distribution is over, they plan to open recreation centers. In addition to clothing the women and children, the American Red Cross has provided most of the nightgowns, pajamas and bed jackets for the hospital.

The following list is a breakdown of the garments provided for the Yugoslavs by the American Red Cross:

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	VALUE PER ITEM	TOTAL VALUE
Womens Sweaters	4,550	\$4.40	\$20,020.00
" Skirts	8,506	2.50	20,765.00
" Dresses	3,231	2.50	8,077.50
" Heavy Nightgowns	7,510	1.25	9,137.50
" Light Nightgowns	960	.75	768.00
Girls Coats	529	5.00	2,645.00
" Skirts	4,163	2.00	8,326.00
" Dresses	2,535	2.00	5,070.00
" Gowns	410	1.00	410.00
" Blouses	3,935	.65	2,557.75
Boys Coats	1,005	5.00	5,025.00
" Shirts	4,030	1.00	4,030.00
" Pyjamas	2,040	1.00	2,040.00
" Nightshirts	2,015	1.00	2,015.00
Childrens Sweaters	8,215	2.95	24,234.25
" Dresses	1,460	2.00	2,920.00
" Pyjamas	2,970	.66	1,960.20
Toddler Packs	1,007	9.25	9,314.75
Babies Layettes	256	8.00	2,048.00
TOTALS	58,927		\$131,363.95

The Mennonite Society has two representatives in El Shatt, one a welfare worker and the other a doctor. They have a fund at their disposal which is used to buy necessary items from time to time. So far they have purchased some athletic equipment and stamps for letters written by refugees. They are interested in contributing clothing, but are waiting to find out the relationship to UNRRA.

The American Friends Service Committee, the American cousin of the F.A.U., has had observers at the camp, and plan to send personnel as soon as they are available.

The Australian Red Cross has donated 180 (shipping) tons of woolen goods, supplementing the basic garments issued by the American Red Cross. The Australian Society has sent balaclavas, mufflers, gloves, mittens, scarves, and blankets, etc. In addition they have donated 1400 cases of tinned^m silk.

The Near East Foundation has provided medical personnel as has the Yugoslav Red Cross. The Jewish Relief Unit has supplied some welfare personnel.

As a whole the Volunteer Agencies fulfill a definite need and release military personnel for other duties, though it should be remembered that the volunteers are only temporary, because of original assignment to the Balkans. However, either MERRA HQ or the agencies themselves have effected a large turnover in personnel at El-Shatt.

F. What community facilities such as shhools, churches, courts, hospitals, medical services, etc., are available to the refugees?

All serious breaches of civil law would be tried in the local courts. British military hospitals are available as follows:

13th General Hospital, Suez - Serious surgical and Medical cases.

78th General Hospital, Geneifa - Neuropathological cases.

1st General Hospital, Kantara - Specialized contagious diseases.

IV. OPERATION

A. Staff

1. Enumerate the personnel, indicating for each individual the nature of his duties, to whom he is responsible, whether non-refugee or refugee, amount of salary, and by whom salary is paid.

See attached personnel roster.

2. Use made of local labor; number employed, duties, and wages paid.

Very little local labor is used at present, a few were employed in the staff mess, but they have been replaced by refugee labor. There is an engineering outfit adjacent to the camp that is assigned to the camp to do the essential engineering work for the camp. Yugoslav artisans such as masons, smiths, carpenters, etc. work with them. The engineers employ natives for most of the manual work and they get paid standard British Army native rates. (What amt)

B. Financial organization

1. Present sources of funds (including gifts), amounts provided, and specific purposes for which allocated.

All funds up to May 1st have been drawn from MERRA HQ which gets them from H. B. M.'s Foreign Office.

2. Fiscal procedures: methods of inventory, bookkeeping, auditing, etc.

At the camp a double entry cash book is kept. All other bookkeeping - (based on standard Foreign Office procedures) - is done at Cairo Headquarters. In addition, of course, the customary stock ledgers are kept by the Supplies Officer and the camp "Q's."

3. Accounting of operating costs for last quarter (N.B.: Please specify number comprising population during the period in question.)

The camp has only been in operation since the end of January and no full quarterly statement could be possible. In addition the operating costs of the camp depend a great deal on just what bills are submitted from the various British Army outfits such as the Quartermaster, the Transport Section, the Medical supplies, etc. By May none of these bills was at MERRA HQ for the period ending March 31st. Since it's all in the family, the British Army is not too prompt in this matter, especially since figuring the bills will be an involved

procedure. The Chief Accountant at MERRA HQ, who has had a good deal of cost-analysis experience states that an average expenditure of \$20 per head per month is an accurate estimate of what it costs to operate a large-scale refugee camp.

0.70 cost
per head per month

C. Food

1. What is the local situation in regard to food supplies? What types of commodities are currently obtainable locally? From elsewhere in the country? What must be brought in from outside the country?

Not much food is bought locally for the basic ration is sufficient and also there is an agreement with the Egyptian Government to purchase only certain items. Fresh eggs and vegetables (supplied by British Army) are available locally; vegetables, fruits and eggs can be obtained elsewhere in the country through the Army. Everything else is imported./

2. What stock-piles (Lend-Lease or other) are now available in the Middle East, from which food supplies for this camp could be drawn? Specify the items and amounts available?

Should authority be granted, adequate supplies could be drawn from the MESC (Middle East Supply Center -- distribution agency for Lend Lease supplies). The following items, sufficient for monthly maintenance are available:

flour
sugar
coffee (or tea if necessary, though coffee supply is more abundant.)
Milk would have to be requisitioned from the States.

3. Is it contemplated that rations will continue to be drawn from the British Army, for which the Army would be reimbursed?

Yes. The following is the ration scale:

APPENDIX "C" TO GENERAL ORDER 1451 of 1943

RATION SCALE - REFUGEES

1. MEN (including boys of 14 and over)

Basic Items		Equivalents to be issued only when basic items are not available	
Bread	18 1/2 ozs.	Biscuits	9 ozs.
(x) Meat (fresh)	6 "	Frozen (with bone)	4 ozs.
Rice	1 1/2 "	or Frozen boneless	3 ozs.
(x) Potatoes	6 "		
(x) Vegetables (fresh)	6 "	Onions	1 "
(x) Onions	2 "	and Rice	1 1/4 "
Macaroni	2 1/4 "	Oatmeal	1 1/2 "
(x) Peas/Beans/Lentils	2 "	or Flour	1 1/2 "
(x) Fruit (fresh)	4 "	Fruit (dried)	2 "
Cheese	1 1/2 "		
(x) Oil (cottonseed)	2 1/2 "		
(x) Milk (fresh)	2 1/2 "	Milk (tinned)	1 "
Jam	1 "		
Margarine	1 "		
Tea	1/8 "		
Sugar	1 1/2 "		
(x) Salt	1 1/2 "		
Pepper	1/100 "		
Cottonseed cake	20 "		

(continued on next page)

2. Women and children

Basic Items		Equivalents to be issued only when basic items are not available	
Bread	14 ozs.	Biscuits	8 ozs.
(x) Meat (fresh)	6 ozs.	Frozen (with bone)	4 "
		or Frozen (boneless)	3 "
Rice	1 "		
(x) Potatoes	6 "	Onions	1 "
(x) Vegetables (fresh)	8 "	and Rice	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
(x) Onions	2 "		
Macaroni	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Oatmeal	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
(x) Peas/Beans/Lentils	1 "	or Flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
(x) Fruit (fresh)	4 "	Fruit (dried)	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
Cheese	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	Milk (tinned)	3 $\frac{1}{5}$ "
(x) Oil (cottonseed)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		
(x) Milk (fresh)	8 "		
Jam	1 "		
Margarine	1 "		
Tea	$\frac{1}{2}$ "		
Sugar	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		
(x) Salt	$\frac{1}{2}$ "		
Pepper	1/100 "		
(x) cottonseed cake	20 "		

Authority exists for exchange of bread for flour or biscuits.

All items marked (x) can be obtained locally some or all of the time.

4. What type and quantity of food is grown, or livestock raised, at the camp itself? What is the potential productive capacity?

At present nothing is grown. Plans are being evolved for farm projects and possibly live stock projects. An extensive farming undertaking would employ a great many people who were farmers in Yugoslavia and purely from a morale point of view it would be an enormous asset. But not even the most ingenious farmer in the world could grow crops in the terra infirma that comprises Sinaian soil. Though wheat has been raised in small quantities by some of the refugees themselves, a communal farm would involve the transportation of thousands of cubic yards of soil from the other side of the canal. A good 3-foot layer of soil must be laid because of the extreme saline nature of the sand. The soil is available, but the transport is not. Moreover the problem of water is difficult, but not insurmountable. It is planned to pipe water from the ablution blocks and laundry (now in blue print stage) to the farming areas. All this water will have to be drained thru lime pits to neutralize the soap. The present idea is to grow peanuts or soy beans.

A secondary project of pig raising, utilizing the garbage that is now being planted in the desert, is a project under consideration.

5. What are the facilities at the camp for food storage and refrigeration?

Enough perishable food is kept on hand for daily needs. Meat is kept in ice chests, vegetables and bread in aerated rooms, and all other supplies in open-air stores compounds. The Army maintains all other reserves until needed.

D. Clothing and Bedding

1. Present sources of supply (including gifts, and Lend-Lease or other stock-piles) of finished clothing, yard goods, yarn, or findings. Specify the amounts available from each source.

Clothing and yard goods have been provided mainly by the British Army and the American Red Cross, and some small amounts from volunteer agencies. The MESC could not provide finished clothing or textiles since all these items are imported through commercial channels. They could, perhaps, work out some plan to supply El Shatt with women's and children's shoes.

2. Projects for repairing or salvaging shoes and clothing by refugees at the camp. Do such projects meet all camp needs for these services?

Yes. There are shoe repairing projects and they do not meet camp needs in full. For details see V B 3.

3. Methods of distribution or allotment; are clothes distributed free, or sold to refugees? Is there a periodic issue, or are articles issued as needed?

Available clothes are distributed free after consultation with staff HQ. The demand is always greater than

the supply. In connection with this, it is interesting to note the method of distribution. When Camp 3, for example, gets an issue of clothing from the Quartermaster Stores a list of goods available is turned over to the Camp Committee. The Camp Committee allots quotas to district committees on the basis of need. The District Committees who are conversant with the district confer with the tent leaders and select the neediest refugees. These refugees go to the Camp Committee where chits are issued for whatever articles the refugee needs. He then proceeds to the camp "Q" at the appropriate time and hands his chit to the Captain "Q". Meanwhile the clothes and shoes have been separated into bins by sizes and it is ^a fairly simple matter, with the aid of an interpreter and several willing junior refugees, to get the individual fitted out. In this manner the camp administration is spared the almost impossible task of selecting the neediest refugees and complaints never reach the administration, but are thrashed out in the various departments of the refugee administration.

4. Itemize clothing or goods needed and quantities required, not obtainable from present sources of supply?

Clothing and goods needed are practically unlimited. There is a dearth of women's and children's shoes, summer and winter underclothing, textiles, and mosquito

netting. Battle dress, delayed by the necessity of dyeing, was recently issued. (All British Army exterior garments must be dyed for security reasons). Summer dress will be issued shortly.

E. Community store or canteen

1. State whether run by refugees, by the administration, or by local concessions.

The community canteen is now run by local concession. That will cease shortly since the refugee canteens will soon be installed. They will be run by the refugees themselves.

2. What type of stock is maintained?

All stocks will be local purchases since it is an Army policy to restrict NAAFI supplies to its own troops and very reasonably refuses to divert some of its stocks to the camp.

3. Is the canteen self-supporting? If run at a profit, what disposition is made of the proceeds?

The canteens will be self-supporting and non-profit.

F. Transportation facilities: roads and vehicles (trucks, automobiles, etc.); facilities for repair.

There is one main tarmac road that serves the camp, some wire-mesh desert tracks, and a good deal of the intra-camp transport takes off on its own on the desert trying to avoid soft sand, tents, and

small Yugoslavs. There are 42 vehicles at present:

5 Ford 3-ton trucks	4 Humber ambulances
8 Dodge 3-ton trucks	2 Morris ambulances
2 Austin 3-ton trucks	1 Bedford ambulance
6 Morris 15-cwt trucks	1 Thorneycroft
5 Bedford 15-cwt trucks	4 B.S.A. motorcycles
1 Chevrolet utility	2 Matchless motorcycles.
1 Fordson utility	

The vehicles have been drawn from Army Ordnance stock and the majority are used vehicles with reconditioned motors. There are fitter's kits and electricians kits for light repairs, but most of the heavy work is done at the Heavy Repair Shops. The drivers were originally from the Yugoslav Naval Base nearby, but are gradually being replaced as more refugee drivers are trained. When full strength, the driver staff will be about sixty men over the age of nineteen. A few apprentices under nineteen are now being trained. There are some British O.R.'s attached to the Transport Section, and in addition the pool has need of an RASC staff sergeant and two first class fitters. Also any sort of repair machinery and equipment would be extremely useful. There seems to be no trouble getting learners (in addition to extra-bread ration they draw 10 digarettes daily), but good drivers are rare. Many of them are under the continental influence and that is that the most important parts of a vehicle are the accelerator and the horn. The

How right!

staff has worked very hard instructing the drivers in the simplest of maintenance methods of the RASC and in time these men should be first class driver-mechanics.

G. Communications: Are postal, telephone, telegraph facilities available at the camp? If not, give the distance of these facilities from the camp, and the addresses.

All facilities are available at the camp. Letters and cablegrams are accepted by the administration and after censorship are dispatched in Suez.

V. REFUGEE WELFARE

A. Health

1. Medical and surgical care, dental care, nursing care, and hospital facilities available in camp or nearest town. Are separate accommodations provided for children?

Though there are hospital facilities in nearby towns and an extensive medical care program at the camp, there is an inadequate health coverage for all the refugees 4 51255 by our standards. It should be pointed out that perhaps the refugee is now receiving more medical attention than he did in his own country; however, the serious shortage of doctors and especially of graduate nurses has been a source of great concern to the administrative staff and has severely overtaxed the extant medical staff.

Each camp has its own clinics, doctor, ambulance, and orderlies. Clinic hours are from 8:00 - 12:00 and 4:

14:00 - 17:00. Minor illnesses and accidents, inspections, and inoculations are attended to there. In his spare time the doctor visits the tent patients. / (At present, patients not very ill remain in their tents. This is not a very satisfactory arrangement from both the patient's point of view and that of camp hygiene, since food has to be carried to the tents. When medical facilities are fully extended, this situation will be alleviated.) All patients who are ill enough to be hospitalized or who require attention provided only at headquarters medical area (eye clinic,* dentist, etc.) are sent there by ambulance. ^{Only} ~~Very~~ ^{very minor} ~~little~~ surgery is done at El Shatt since these cases are sent to the British Army hospital in Suez which is fully equipped for such work. There are separate accommodations for children.

2. Medical supplies in camp

Medical supplies are drawn from the British Army, which has been able to supply essential medical drugs and equipment. There is a shortage of some things such as the sulfa derivatives. In the past, the British Red Cross has provided some equipment.

* Not in operation yet.

3. Special maternal and child care available.

In operation now are maternity and children's wards. A pre-natal clinic is in the planning stage. At the hospital are a gynecologist and a pediatrician. Each camp has its own child welfare (or well-baby) clinic where children under three come at least once a week for a bath, check up, and necessary treatment. It is mainly staffed by the refugee nursing graduates from the Headquarters school and under the direction of one of the Headquarters staff. In the near future, if milk supplies are augmented, milk bars ^{or formula stations} are planned for the youngsters under school age; should conditions permit milk will be served in schools as well.

✓ 5. Provisions for camp inspection to ascertain daily health needs.

Most of this work is covered by the daily reports of the hygiene officers taken during their daily rounds, since there is not sufficient medical staff for such inspections. Doctors from Palestine are expected shortly. The camp keep a weekly disinfestation chart such as this sample one from II.

Summary for week ending April 16.

No. of persons inspected: Men 252; Women 274;
total 626.
No. of persons requiring treatment: Men 18;
Women - 37, total 55.
No. of persons in louse infested tents bathed:
Men 36; Women 38, Total 74.
Total baths given: 165. Approximate water used
1503 gallons.

were in pretty fair shape, but the third one showed signs of malnutrition and diet deficiency. Considering the large number of extremely young and extremely old, the large number of physically disabled or unfit and considering the life these people have led in the last five years, and also the great climatic change from Yugoslavia to Sinai, the health record is excellent and the mortality rate low. Many of the refugees, especially the youngsters, need building up for which an additional ration of milk for the camp will be necessary. When the refugees, first arrived, the ordeal of the war years, the lack of proper food in Yugoslavia, the sudden emotional let down of being removed to a place of safety had their manifestation in about a dozen patients who had to be removed to the neuro-pathic ward of the General Hospital. Some of these cases were severe, but it is hoped that most of them will respond to treatment and be restored to their families. Perhaps one of the biggest factors in the high standard of health is the general determination to go back to Yugoslavia and start home life anew. Rarely do you see the signs of disease common to a great number of other refugees - that of no longer caring what happens tomorrow, as long as they stay

alive today. Yugoslavia has been the only occupied country to field an above ground organized anti-fascist team, and the spirit that made an army out of peasants and fishermen is evident even to a stranger at El Shatt.

B. Working conditions and policies

1. Is there any policy of enforcing performance of work from all physically fit refugees?

Such a policy is impossible as well as unnecessary.

2. Are wages, as distinct from family allowances, paid to refugees for work around the camp? If so, what is the wage schedule for employed refugees?

No wages or family allowances are being paid now, though the system of allowances or pocket money will start very shortly. Despite the fact that it has been the customary policy to pay pocket money at refugee camps, the shortcomings of this policy in connection with the Yugoslavs has been gone into already (II F 4).

~~They were~~ When they first arrived many of them

had Italian Metropolitan Lira and Yugoslavian Dinars (also known as Kuna) with them. There was a limited amount of Egyptian money for exchange. A quota of 500,000 Metropolitan lira (400 to the Pound) and 10,000,000 Dinars (4000 to the Pound) was granted. The Central Committee set the quota for the various camps. Now all the Metropolitan lira have been exchanged and eight million of the Dinar quota. (Two million Dinars have been set aside for expected arrivals.) No British Sterling is transferable for security reasons since it is suspected that such money may have been taken from impounded British funds. BMA (British Military Authority) occupation money and American dollars are readily exchangeable, but there is little extant. Aside from some gold coins which are exchanged on a basis of weight, there is no possibility of any of the money remaining in the possession of the refugees being exchanged. It is evident that something must be done soon. The payment of wages in addition to pocket money is not likely.

3. In addition to housekeeping and general camp maintenance, are there work projects? If so, state the numbers employed in each type of project, and the wage scale.

There are numerous work projects in force at all three camps. Camp I work projects were observed and a short resume of what they have accomplished follows:

a. Cobbling: Many former cobblers have been put to work fulfilling refugee needs for shoes. Old shoes are repaired with leather taken from discarded British Army shoes. New shoes have been fabricated out of scrap materials. Old hawsers have been unraveled and the clean hemp strands found in the center are platted for making the soles of espadrilles. Scraps of canvas are used in making the tops. Useless rubber tires are cut to size for heels and soles. Sandals are made from scrap leather. All the wooden lasts have been hand-carved by the refugees themselves. Some of the tools have been made of scrap materials - knives, for instance, from sharpened steel taken from broken spring leaves. There is a shortage of all cobbling tools and material, though there are enough cobblers available to fulfill refugee needs for shoes.

b. Brick making: A brick making machine designed and built by the refugees from scrap metal and salvage wood will shortly be in operation making bricks for the projected camp buildings, the most important of which will be the soap-making factory.

c. Carpentry: A good many wood workers and apprentices are busy in the carpentry shop making the host of things needed for the camp. Here again a shortage of craftsman's tools and wood of any sort have imposed hardships on the workers. They have made all the church equipment. A good many of the tools such as wood planes, are entirely hand made. Plans have been drawn for a wood lathe which is under construction now. Sand paper was made with paper, glue and the available and unlimited supply of sand.

d. Metal working: The metal workers deal mostly with discarded petrol tins, practically the only source of metal. Waste cans, poison traps, fire buckets, fly traps, etc. have all been made. The most important project has been that of fly traps with scraps of wire-screening but that has come to a halt since no more screening is available. That expert workers are available is evidenced by the fact that water-tight basins have been made without solder.

Various other projects such as dressmaking, masonry, wood carving, sign painting, etc. are in operation. The two characteristics that typify all camp projects have been ingenuity and the scarcity of materials.

This lack of materials which affects all phases of camp activity is a serious problem and steps must be taken to arrange for more adequate supply channels if the camp hopes to attain its potential efficiency. The ingenuity of the administrative staff in setting up work projects with practically nothing cannot be too highly praised. Through the efforts of some of the officers materials have been begged, borrowed and serounged. No problem seems insurmountable, though the supply famine has often made things discouraging. Given the material, these men could find useful work for all willing hands. As this report goes to its final typing, El Shatt has a working force of 3000 daily. Daily work schedules have been copied from Camps I and II and are submitted as samples:

(Continued on next page)

CAMP I - TYPICAL DAILY WORK ROSTER

	Men	Women	Boys under 18
Central Committee	33	13	
Theater Group	33	32	4
Carpenters	6		
No. 1 Camp Committee	8		
Clerks	2	3	3
No. 1 District Committee	8		
Clerks	3	1	2
No. 4 District Committee	8		
Clerks	3	5	3
No. 5 District Committee	5		
Clerks	3	1	2
Doctors	2		
MI Room	5	5	1
Hygiene	35	31	
Fire Fighters	35		
Partisan Guards	61		
Cooks	93	70	
Staff HQ. Adm. Clerks	3	4	3
Staff HQ. Welfare Clerks	1		
Staff HQ Q Clerks	3		
Child Welfare	1	6	
Interpreters	2		
Staff & BOR's Messes	3		
Barbers	3		
Teachers	32	11	
<u>Trades:</u> Cobblers	12		1
Tinsmiths	2		1
Painters	1		
Carpenters	13		
Casual labor	64		12
<u>Out of Camp</u>			
Carpenters	7		
Masons	6		
Blacksmiths	2		
Interpreters	3		
HQ Bath house	4	2	
Casual labor	81		5
Totals	608	190	41
GRAND TOTAL	-- 839		

CAMP II - TYPICAL DAILY WORK ROSTER

	Men	Women
Cook House	56	55
MI Room		7
Scabies Clinic	7	5
QM Stores	9	1
Hygiene	24	24
Officers & BOR Mess	3	6
Office Staff	2	3
Interpreters	5	4
Builders	6	
Carpenters	3	
Tinsmiths	6	
Fitters	3	
Painters	1	
Teachers	27	20
Bakers	2	
Soap Factory	1	
Guards	23	
Drivers	8	
Casual Labor	39	
Child Welfare	2	6
Committees	74	
Hospital Nurses		12
Post Office	3	1
Theater Group	43	33
Totals	383	177
GRAND TOTAL	--	560

All requisitions for help are submitted the day before so that there is time to turn out ("beat up" - El Shatt basic English) the required manpower. As previously mentioned, the workers draw 4 oz of bread a day in addition to their regular ration. The steady trades men who work in the shops set up in the camp headquarters compound draw 10 cigarettes and get the first choice of clothes when there is an issue. ||

start
4. What is the policy with respect to refugees employed in professional or skilled capacities, such as doctors, nurses, teachers, etc? Do they receive same salaries as non-refugee professionals? In addition to salary, do they receive maintenance and clothing without charge on the same basis as other refugees?

Some professionals are supplied by the Yugoslavian Red Cross under arrangements made with their own organizations. All others are drawn from the camp itself and live on the same basis as the rest of the refugees.

5. Are consumer enterprises such as barbering, cobbling, etc., permitted? Are they operated by individual refugees, by cooperatives, or by the administration? How are wages paid?

No consumer enterprises are permitted. When the co-operative laundry opens for the hospital, it is possible that there will be a small charge for clothes sent in by the refugees or administrative staff. This will go to the camp funds.

- 6 A. Are refugees permitted by local authorities or by the camp administration to work outside the camp? If so, specify restrictions, types of work, number employed, and remuneration.

No refugees are permitted to work outside El Shatt. When "Out of Camp" is used on the two appended work schedules that means outside of their immediate camp, but within the confines of El Shatt itself, such as people working at headquarters or with the engineers on camp grounds.

- 7 8. Is any plan in effect to pay compensation for injuries or death resulting from employment by the camp?

No.

C. Education

1. How many children attend school, and how many hours daily are they in attendance?

For lack of adequate facilities, supplies, and teachers, school attendance is not full strength now. It is estimated that when the schools are running smoothly, about 5,000 children will attend. At present schools are run from 8:30 to 10:30 but this is to be extended. Children are divided into four categories for school attendance as follows:

Nursery schools	-	Age 1 - 2
Kindergartens	-	Age 3 - 7
Elementary School	-	Age 8 - 13
Secondary School	-	Age 14 - 18

The school program has been worked out by the educational branches of the refugee administration and the educational officers of the staff. Russian is taught in the secondary schools, and English is compulsory for elementary and secondary school students, though the scarcity of good English teachers presents a problem as yet unsolved. The question of salaries of teachers brought in from outside has not been decided, since no teachers are available from outside, nor has the responsibility for an adequate and regular flow of school supplies.

2. Who provides books and other school supplies?

Up to now, the British Council (The Educational Department sponsored by H. B. M. 's Foreign Office) has done what it could by purchasing supplies on the local market. The program is both impractical and inadequate to meet current needs. A Yugoslavian settlement in Egypt poses problems not encountered in the refugee camps of other nations. The Greeks, for instance, have a large colony here who have donated supplies and text books to the Greek Refugee Camps. There are practically no Yugoslavs in Egypt and no books or literature in Serbo-Croat. An appeal has been made in America for text books and supplies, but until such time as outside help arrives, this all-important phase of camp life will suffer.

3. Is there an adult education program, including also vocational training?

There are English classes for adults, vocational training for apprentices in the workshops, and a People's University conducted by the Central Committee where Russian and other subjects are taught.

D. Security

1. What are the provisions for entering or leaving the camp?

The refugees are confined to the camp area by the Canal on the West and by the desert on all other sides. They wander about between the three camps and stroll along the roads, but the forbidding aspect of the desert is an adequate barrier for all the refugees.

2. How, and by whom, is the camp guarded and policed?

The camp is guarded by the Partisan Guards made up of the refugees. With the exception of a few British O.R.'s who live in the "Q" compounds, the Partisan Guards are responsible for camp security. They carry no fire arms, but bear pick helms. Security is difficult to maintain since the wide open spaces surrounding the camp are impossible to patrol thoroughly. Native raiding parties come in from time to time and the losses have not been inconsiderable. During the day, a large number of

natives who work for the engineers complicates matters since the Arab (who is never bashful) likes to wander about the tents bartering for food or picking up anything that is not tied down. The problem of security at night will never be satisfactorily settled, though a few soldiers with rifles patrolling in jeeps equipped with searchlights would help. One British Army Field Security sergeant is permanently posted to the camp.

3. What are the regulations for visitors to camp?

Refugees are permitted visitors if these visitors have a pass issued at MERRA HQ.

4. What provisions are made for communications between refugees and other persons elsewhere?

Refugees can send censored letters and cablegrams.

E. What responsibilities are refugees given in connection with camp management and control, including systems of self-government? Are refugees given the opportunity to voice grievances or dissatisfaction with camp management, or to advance suggestions pertaining to the management? Who serves as liaison between the refugees and the administration?

The refugees are given wide latitude in self-government. They arrived with their representatives already appointed by the GNL and this became the Central Committee. They are responsible for

all problems of refugee administration. They appointed the various camp committees who in turn set up the District Committee system. Tent leaders were chosen by the tent occupants. Should the people be dissatisfied with their representative, complaints are brought to the attention of the next highest committee and changes are made. The presence of such a refugee administrative set-up removes from the shoulders of the camp staff a thousand and one petty problems that crop up daily. Most complaints are handled by the Committees; at first the refugees were told not to bring any complaints to the British staff at all, but this has since been adjusted. The Camp Committees meet weekly with the Camp Commandant and his staff and the same is true for the Central Committee and the HQ Staff. A typical camp committee meeting follows: It took place at No 1 camp with the five committee members and the Commandant (honorary member of Committee) and the five members of his staff present. /

The first part of the meeting was taken over by the Camp Commandant. He told the committee that a soap factory would be in operation as soon as caustic soda had been obtained. He told the Committee to send two men to Camp II to study soap-making under a master

soapmaker there. The Major wanted to know about a change in committee. The Major said that in reply to the many complaints about bread he had gone to the bakery that supplies it to investigate. He found out the bread was gray because of the inclusion of Australian wheat which was not as good as Canadian wheat. Also the bread was moist because it was supposed to dry out for a day and not be eaten immediately. The bakery which was working under very difficult conditions said that soon they would only be using Canadian wheat and promised to bake the bread a bit longer. The Major suggested that the refugees have one day's ration of biscuits so that the camp could fall one day behind on bread. Committee approved. Problem presented to Quartermaster to see if he could get the biscuits. Major stated that bread was being improperly stocked in breadrooms and should be stood on end instead of laid flat. Committee promised to bring this matter to the attention of all kitchens. The Major said that he was waiting for the Committee's suggestions before publishing Camp Orders. The Committee promised to hold a meeting that night to decide its recommendations. The Commandant stated that people were moving from tent to tent, and that tents were

being moved without notification. He warned that no family allowances would be permitted until people were definitely stationed. Noted by Committee. Major said that they needed a good mason to operate brick-making machine. Committee promised to round one up. For a laundry, the Major wanted plans from a refugee engineer. Noted by Committee. The trial of four men who refused to work was discussed and all agreed that trial was legal (No punishment meted out but severe criticism was leveled at three; one proved physical incapacity). Complaint of low flying plane and speeding vehicle in camp taken up. Major stated that no action was possible unless plane and truck numbers were handed in. The question of additional milk and sugar for the drivers (who mess separately) was brought up and the Major stated that the drivers' ration would be brought up to camp standards. The Major said that instruction in the use of kitchen ranges would start immediately, and that the ice issued for meat preservation was not to be used for drinks since it was not pure. Noted by Committee. The major stated that dysentery would shortly crop up unless strict precautions be taken.

He said that kitchen helpers must be instructed to wash hands after visits to the latrines and that no food handler with diarrhoea should be allowed in the kitchen until he was well. Noted by Committee./

Staff. The various staff members were canvassed for suggestions. The "Q" showed a kerosene tin that had been rendered useless by having a hole punched in the top and no cap for the spout. He warned that the tin could not be replaced and that the guilty kitchen would suffer by having its ration cut down. Committee promised to attend to this.

The Hygiene Officer stated that there was a shortage of brooms. Q promised to provide them. H.O. said that the dining hall clean-up squads were not showing up and the committee promised to find out why. The ever-present fly problem was brought up and discussed.

The Adjutant said that tents were being erected without permission and asked who put up the addition to the church. No one seemed to know, but an investigation was promised by the Major.

Committee: The second part of the meeting was turned over to the Committee. The question was brought up of the whereabouts of a man taken to the hospital at Suez while the refugees were in transit. The Major stated

that he had just learned that the man had died, but the death notice had been sent to Camp 3 by mistake. The Committee discussed the possibility of removing a tent full of non-cooperative Albanians and the Major said it would be done. Committee submitted a list of unoccupied tent spaces which was turned over to the Adjutant. They proposed that cobblers' lasts be made of metal and not wood; the major said that this was a problem for the Q and not for the general meeting. The question of the spasmodic water supply in District Five was brought up and the major explained that since District Five was on higher ground, every time that a convoy in Suez took on water the pressure was not strong enough to reach it. "_____

_____"

The Committee brought up the problem of food being carried to the tents and suggested that as soon as dining halls were completed they could take measures to stop it. Major said that supplies were holding up their completion. They brought up the point of a peculiar Arab who used to hang around the women's showers and the Major said that he was an employee of the engineers and had been fired that morning. The

discussion of change of work hours took place and the Major said that the camp would go on summer hours (7:30 - 12; 17:00 - 19:00) the following Monday. The Committee stated that the artisans working with the engineers throughout the day would suffer; the Major said that they were building a hospital and the necessity for its completion should be put up to the men involved. As an afterthought the Major said that perhaps some arrangement would be worked out with the Engineers since it would only mean having one or two B.O.R.'s on hand as the artisans usually worked independent of the native labor. The committee asked for showers for the kitchen help; the Major stated that he was doubtful but would look into it.

There being no further points the two hour meeting was adjourned.

On the whole the dual-administrative policy works out well. The Committees act as liaisons with the staff through the aid of interpreters. That the refugees should be so interested in their own affairs is a hopeful and encouraging thing for all personnel involved in refugee problems. These people have demonstrated that they are industrious and trustworthy and when the war ends the Yugoslavians should

be able to meet their own problems with a minimum of administrative effort and supervision on our part.

F. General observations on morale of refugees.

Before going into the problem of morale, it will be in order to mention something about welfare, which was not included in this questionnaire. Welfare falls roughly into the following five categories:

- I - ART - Theater, painting, music, concerts, choral groups, sculpture, etc.
- II - SPORTS - Playgrounds, adult sports, swimming, indoor games (table tennis), football, bocce(boca), bowls.
- III - TRADES AND DOMESTIC OCCUPATIONS - Shoemaking, tinsmithing, soap making, carpentry, tailoring, dress-making, embroidery, needle work, agriculture, arts and crafts.
- IV - PERSONAL PROBLEMS
- V - EDUCATION - Schools, Libraries, Publication.

A brief discussion of each follows:

ART: Theater groups have been formed in each camp; these will shortly be amalgamated into one company. They have produced several one-act plays, some of them written by refugees, others borrowed from books. They are completely self-produced with costumes made out of scraps of material and paper. Masks were made for an

SPORTS: In the sports line, things are not as bad. Deck tennis has been played with tent pegs and quoits woven from old rope. Volley ball and football are played with some equipment provided by the Mennonites. Boča (similar to Italian game of Bocce) is popular, old wood having been turned down into balls. A skittle alley has been scrounged and croquet, archery, and other games should start shortly. Swimming is a very popular sport, but nothing can be done that would give official recognition to swimming in the forbidden waters of the Suez Canal. There are children's playgrounds in the different camps with some equipment made by the P.O.W's.

Equipment is needed for table tennis (the Yugoslavs are some of the finest players in Europe) and indoor games. Children's playground equipment could be made if wood were available.

Chess and checkers are played with hand carved pieces and the artistry of some of the wood carving is remarkable.

TRADES AND DOMESTIC OCCUPATIONS: A good many of the trades have already been touched on in the discussion of work projects. Classes in sewing are held, but no large scale occupational projects are

under way yet. All sorts of wood working, metal working tools, draughtsman sets, and needle working implements are needed badly. As in most agrarian countries, Yugoslavia has a fine tradition of embroidery and needle work and it is certainly worth considering that a project could be set up. Finished articles could be sold through private channels to help swell welfare funds. The same is true of wood carving, painting, sculpting and other arts and crafts.

4. Personal problems which are manifold, are usually taken up by the Camp Welfare Officers.

5. Education has already been discussed. A central library has been planned, but nothing has been done since there are no books. Steps should be taken to make appeals through the Voluntary Agencies for French, acceptable Italian and Serbo-Croat (if any) books, and magazines. This library would have some reference books which would remain in the building, and the reading material would be parceled and circulated in the different camps. There is a mimeograph machine at the Central Committee headquarters where a daily paper with a children's supplement is printed. Material is gotten from the radio and O.W.I. releases.

MORALE: The problems of welfare are closely integrated with those of morale. On the whole, morale is good. It is true that there are complaints, but there are not many refugees without a grouse. Since the refugee administration deals with most of the complaints, this is a healthy sign that the people are not only alive and kicking and anxious to get home again but capable of sorting out their own problems. Any great upheaval and transplanting will have its unsettling effect on a group; considering what the refugees have been through and the desolate and discouraging surroundings they are now in, their adjustment is a tribute to their self-sufficiency. Fifth columnists had spread stories before the evacuation that they were going to a land of milk and honey with green pastures and houses. That the desert itself was discouraging is understandable, but the last groups of refugees arrived in the midst of a howling sandstorm, a torment that would have dismayed a statue. Rumors spread quickly and die quickly and the lack of provocateurs is unusual in a group as large as that at El Shatt. There are at the camp people who have gone on a conducted tour in Germany, being shown the glories of an empire that was to last a thousand years.

To those who have seen the behavior of the "master race" in their own countries, such excursions have had no effect and those that have gone find it highly amusing that they have eaten well and slept at the expense of an enemy that understands bribery and treachery but hasn't any comprehension of human psychology.

The two great problems at the camp in order of importance are those of medical personnel and supplies. In regard to the latter it should be pointed out that any inferences to the fact that the British Army hasn't done as much as it could is entirely erroneous. A large part of the credit for the running of this and other camps has been due entirely to the cooperation of the Army. They have provided essential supplies and have never turned down a genuine emergency request. They have been most sympathetic to the problems of the camp but it is obvious that the Army cannot provide as much equipment as it would like. It has a primary responsibility to its fighting forces; nothing can or should take precedence over that. Britain has been at war five years and their stocks are low. Moreover there is no reason why responsibility of supply should be placed solely in the British Army,

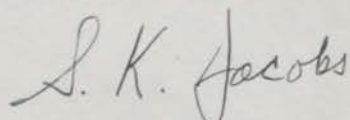
since UNRRA has taken over these camps. / Some plan must be worked out to relieve the burden that these men have carried up to now in so excellent a manner.

It is also a matter of policy as yet undecided as to how comprehensive UNRRA's responsibility is in regard to refugee maintenance. Are these people to be maintained on a scale equivalent to their life in Yugoslavia, or to the same level of assistance that we expect to attain in occupied countries? Since these refugees have no other form of self-support, is it policy to have different scales of living standards? Right now, for instance food rations which are adequate, exceed in some instances not only British Army rations but civilian rations in Great Britain. This policy should be determined so that the administrative staffs of the various camps can plan for the future. Now the initiative is in the hands of the camp Commandants who do the best with what they have. These men at El Shatt are given free rein as much as possible to experiment and plan. New ideas and work projects are freely exchanged but it is difficult for the El Shatt Commandant to do any long range planning if the

expected degree of refugee maintenance remains undecided. It is important that the camp be assured now a minimum (and maximum) amount of assistance and supplies.

If the Yugoslavs have the tools and equipment to keep them busy both at work and at play the camp will function as smoothly and as quietly as a new electric refrigerator. Every effort must be made to sustain the morale of these people until such time as the darkness disappears from their land and they can return to life in the sunlight of a free world.

SKJacobs/jm



S. K. Jacobs
Field Organizer & Inspector
United Nations Relief and
Rehabilitation Administration
Cairo, Egypt

CROSS REFERENCE

Subject:

Study on Child Welfare
Activities -
El Shatt Camp

Filed Under:

Date: 2/VII/45

Corres. Control No.

To:

From:

See also:

Sent to Grace Fox, Historian
3/VIII/45-

25th September 1944

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation
Administration - 8, Sharia dar El-Shifa
Garden City - Cairo

Mr. Lincoln Clark
UNRRA
Du Pont Circle Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Lincoln:

I had an opportunity of visiting El Shatt Camp and I used this opportunity of securing whatever information I could on cooperatives in Yugoslavia. Most of the people in this camp are from the Dalmatian coast and the islands close by and the views expressed are probably based upon the experience of Dalmatian farmers and not that of farmers throughout the country.

On the recommendation of the President of the Central Committee at the El Shatt Camp, I interviewed several farmers who were from the Dalmatian coast and/or from an island just off the coast. The discussion was facilitated by an interpreter from the camp. In addition to the farmers the Secretary and President of Camp No. 3 participated in the discussion.

None of the farmers had had any official connection with cooperatives except as members.

For the most part these farmers raised grapes for wine and olives for oil which were the cash crops in this section of Yugoslavia. The points of view expressed by these farmers are an indication of what we may expect to encounter in that part of the country. The type of cooperative which was prevalent was the credit cooperative which gave members an opportunity of saving their money and also provided a means of securing loans for the purchase of fertilizers, pesticides, supplies, etc. In addition, the credit cooperatives marketed the produce of its members, thus eliminating the middleman. In the past the Government lent its assistance to farmers individually and through cooperatives in an attempt to standardize the products markets.

The membership in the cooperative organization was not widespread. The general opinion was that the more independent farmer and/or those who had the advantages of formal education were members of zadrugas or cooperatives. There will be a great need for education in cooperatives in order to obtain the participation of many more farmers in zadrugas.

The farmers felt that the zadrugas could be used for purposes of distribution. The President and Secretary of Camp No. 3 stated emphatically that any distribution of supplies would be made only through the central committees and that the zadrugas would be interesting to note that the selection of the central and other is, the Central Committee was selected by a representative of the Partisans, the camp committees were selected in turn by the central committees, and the block leaders in turn, were selected by the camp committees.

It was felt that adequate credit for the purchase of producer supplies will be essential in the agricultural rehabilitation of Yugoslavia. The preferred method of obtaining credit will be through the zadruga, which can also be used to facilitate the marketing of agricultural products and the elimination of the middle-man's profit.

Increased participation in the zadrugas was considered a certainty in post-war rehabilitation. The future outlook of the farmers interviewed was a very hopeful one. Their morale was high and they felt that through cooperatives they would be able to provide a better livelihood for themselves and a better standard of living for their country.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Rosenberg

Form No. AD-2
(20 June 1944)

ROUTE SLIP

Date

25 Jan

To

Mr Brown

Room No.

309

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approval | <p>REMARKS</p> <p><i>Original</i>
<i>circulated to</i>
<i>RLB + TS</i></p> <p><i>D B M</i> <i>WOM</i></p> <p><i>Per</i>
<i>RR</i></p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> See Me | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As Requested | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your information | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Per telephone conversation | |

From

Mr Bryan

Room No.

1114

25 January 1945

TO: R. Brown ✓
F. Hoehler
A. Cairns
C. Van Hynning
W. Sawyer
R. Butler
V. Sydenstricker

FROM: A. H. Bryan

SUBJECT: Nutrition Survey of Pregnant and Nursing Women and Children
6 to 15 years old in El Shatt #2 Camp.

Attached to this memorandum is a survey by Dr. Andrew J. McQueeney of selected groups in Yugoslav refugee camp El Shatt #2.

The original survey is on file in the Health Division and may be examined by members of the division at their request. It will be found to contain general information not included in this summary.

Attachment

SUMMARY OF A NUTRITION SURVEY OF PREGNANT AND
NURSING WOMEN AND CHILDREN 6 TO 15 YEARS
OLD IN EL SHATT #2 CAMP

This survey was made on 17-25 November 1944 by Lt. Andrew J. McQueeney, Health Division, Balkan Mission.

Diet. The basic ration scale is presented in the original survey and Dr. McQueeney found that the rations are not supplemented in any way, but rather reduced by (1) the fact that certain items are unavailable from time to time and (2) each kitchen makes daily reductions to contribute to a special soldiers' ration for 210 Yugoslav Army veterans.

Physical Examination - Evaluation of Nutrition Status.

1. Methods.

Each individual was given a brief clinical examination. No laboratory methods were used. Clinical evidence of anemia was not recorded.

2. Sample.

El Shatt #2 was found to have two population "areas". The Split area consisted of 6500 people from Split and other urban centers along the Dalmatian Coast. These refugees had been living in El Shatt about nine months. The Khatatba area consisted of 3000 peasants and fishermen from the Dalmatian Coast who had been transferred from Khatatba refugee camp. The following sample was examined:

- (a) 31 or 100% of the pregnant women in El Shatt #2.
- (b) 119 or 91.5% of the 130 nursing women in the camp.
- (c) 475 or 20.1% of the 2364 children in the camp between the ages of 6 and 15. Every fifth child on the school list was selected.

3. Findings.

(a) Ten cases of clinical deficiency disease were found in the 161 pregnant and nursing women examined; five cases of scurvy, two of beriberi and three of ariboflavinosis. Seven of these ten women came from the Khatatba area. One case of chronic pellagra was observed in the children.

(b) Findings in 31 pregnant women.

- 1) Two cases of beriberi and one of scurvy.
- 2) About one-half of the women showed changes in the conjunctivae believed by some to be indicative of chronic vitamin A deficiency.
- 3) Slight tongue changes possibly associated with deficiency of B-complex were common.

(c) Findings in 119 lactating women.

- 1) Three cases of beriberi in women from the Split area and four cases of scurvy in women from the Khatatba area.
- 2) Over half of the women from both areas showed the conjunctival changes mentioned in 2 above.
- 3) Signs associated with ariboflavinosis were common in women from both areas.
- 4) Slight tongue changes possibly associated with B-complex deficiency were common in women from both areas.
- 5) Gingivitis of a type suggestive but not diagnostic of vitamin C deficiency was common in the women from Khatatba, but not in those from the Split area.

(d) Findings in 475 school children.

- 1) The physical examination was a normal one in 45% of the children.
- 2) One case of chronic pellagra was observed.
- 3) About 1/5 of the children showed slight tongue changes possibly associated with B-complex deficiency.
- 4) Other signs of vitamin deficiency included signs of rickets, and were infrequent and scattered.
- 5) Tables showing height and weight of children by years were included in the survey. Interpretation of this data is difficult because of a lack of suitable standards. Comparison of the figures with two American tables available in this office indicated that the children were somewhat shorter than some American children of a similar age, but of a comparable weight.
- 6) No difference in nutrition status was observed between the children from the Split area and those from the Khatatba area.

6 December 1944.

NUTRITION SURVEY OF SELECTED YUGOSLAV REFUGEE GROUPS: SCHOOL CHILDREN AND PREGNANT AND NURSING WOMEN AT EL SHATT #2 CAMP

Lt. Andrew J. McQueeney, USPHS, Nutrition Section, Health Division, Balkan Mission, UNRRA.

Dates of study: November 19 to November 25, 1944.

RATION SCALE - REFUGEES- Adults & Children Age 10 & over

Basic Item

Equivalents to be issued only when basic items are not available.

Bread	14 oz.	Biscuits	9 oz.
Flour	2 oz.	Meat frozen (with bones	4 oz.
Meat, fresh (6 times weekly)	6 oz.	or (without "	3 oz.
Rice	1 oz.		
Eggs (once weekly)	2		
Potatoes	6 oz.	Onions & Rice	1 oz.
		Rice	1 1/2
Vegetables, fresh	6 oz.		
Onions	1 1/2 oz.		
Macaroni Gd. II	2 oz.		
Peas and/or Beans	2 oz.	Oatmeal	1 1/4 oz.
		or Flour	1 1/4 oz.
Fruit, fresh	4 oz.	Fruit dried	1 1/2 oz.
Fruit, dried	1 1/2 oz.		
Cheese	1 oz.		
Oil cooking	1 oz.		
Milk fresh	5 oz.	Milk td (UK or Dom)	2 oz.
Jam	1 1/2 oz.		
Margarine	1 oz.		
Tea	1/8 oz.		
Coffee	1/2 oz.		
Sugar	1-3/4 oz.		
Salt	1/2 oz.		
Pepper	1/100 oz.		
Cotton Seed Cake	1-3/4 oz.		

Note: Fish fresh 6 ozs. may be drawn in lieu of Meat Fresh 6 ozs. 3 times weekly when available.

RATION SCALE - REFUGEES - Children Age 1-9 inclusive.

Basic Items

Equivalents to be issued only when basic items are not available.

Bread	8 oz.	Biscuits	5 oz.
Flour	2 oz.		
Biscuits	2 1/2 oz.		
Meat Fresh (6 times weekly)	4 oz.	Meat frozen (with bones	3 oz.
		or (without "	2 oz.
Eggs (once weekly)	2		
Rice	3 oz.	Onions	2/3 oz.
		and Rice	1 oz.
Potatoes	4 oz.		

Vegetables, fresh	4 oz.		
Onions	3/4 oz.		
Macaroni, Gd II	1 oz.		
Peas/Beans/Lentils	1 oz.	Oatmeal	1/4 oz.
		or Flour	1/4 oz.
		Fruit, dried	1/4 oz.
Fruit, fresh	4 oz.		
Fruit, dried	1/2 oz.		
Cheese	1/2 oz.		
Oil, cooking	1/2 oz.		
Milk, fresh	10 oz.	Milk Td (UK or Dom)	4 oz.
Jam	1/2 oz.		
Margarine	1		
Cocoa	1/4 oz.		
Sugar	1-3/4 oz.		
Salt	1/3 oz.		
Pepper	1/100 oz.		
Fruit Juice	1		
Cotton Seed Cake	1 1/2 lbs.		

Note: Fish, fresh 4 ozs. may be drawn in lieu of Meat, fresh, 4 oz. 3 times weekly when available.

MENU EL SHATT No. 2 CAMP

Breakfast:	Bread, white, unenriched Tea, sugar, Evap. Milk Marmalade.
Lunch:	Bean, Macaroni Soup Puree of Peas (dried) Bread
Supper:	Goulash (Fried Meat, cooking oil, onions, potatoes Tea, sugar, Bread, white
<hr/>	
Breakfast:	Ditto above - same every day
Lunch:	Dumpling, roast meat and meat sauce Beans Bread, white
SUPPER:	Macaroni, beans (boiled with oil) Tea, sugar Bread, white

Plus: 6 oz. available fresh vegetables, daily
(taken from messing officer's record of current meals).

UNRRA INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Don 307

TO: Mr. Robert L. Brown
Camps Division

DATE
24 March 1945

FROM: W. Luten *WL*
Welfare Division

SUBJECT: Report on Visit to El Shatt with Mr. Fred Daniels, from Hansi Pollak, 12 January 1945.

I attach a copy of report from Hansi Pollak to Harry Greenstein, dated 12 January 1945, "Report on Visit to El Shatt with Mr. Fred Daniels," for your files.

Attachment

DBM - HS - MFD
Per RR

ROUTING SLIP

ORDER NAME COMMENT

~~1~~ ~~TRIER~~ Brown

~~2~~ ~~FOOKER~~

~~SAPER~~

~~3~~ ~~LATTICORE~~ DBM

~~STERN~~

6 Campo Dir.
~~YOUNG~~(Files)

4 Health Dir.

5 Public Inform.

C
O
P
Y

File: *INF 100 Camps Rep*
January 12, 1945

TO: Harry Greenstein
Director of Welfare Division, Balkan Mission

FROM: Hansi Pollak
Chief Welfare Officer, Camps Division

RE: Report on Visit to El Shatt with Mr. Fred Daniels

1. I visited El Shatt on the above dates in order that Mr. Daniels, Director of Welfare, UNRRA Washington, might have the opportunity of seeing El Shatt and Moses Wells.
2. In the course of this visit one complete day was spent in Camps 2 and 4, one day at Moses Wells, one day at Camp 1 in the hospital and one day on a pre-arranged tour by Lt. Col. Bekker.
3. Mr. Daniels and I attended a meeting of all the welfare workers at El Shatt where discussion of many of the projects under consideration was undertaken with particular emphasis being bestowed on the Nursing School programme commencing on 14th Jan., 1945.
4. Mr. Daniels was invited to address the meeting and gave an extremely interesting account of UNRRA developments in Western Europe. Considerable appreciation was expressed by the Social Workers on being advised of these developments and thereby once again taken into the "UNRRA family".
5. Conditions have, on the whole, in my opinion, improved, particularly in regard to clothing and the provision of Public Health services. With regard to Welfare Staff, it would appear to me that too much of the efforts of qualified and trained Welfare workers are directed towards allocation and distribution of gift clothing to Red Cross committees. It is very strongly hoped that when the bulk of this issue is over, welfare workers will be able to devote themselves more fully to developing various welfare activities and not to concentrate, as they appear to have done, upon clothing supplies.
6. As far as my reports go relationships with the New Yugoslav Red Cross Committees are combining well in all except Camp 2 where there seems to be some friction between the previous Welfare Committee and the New Yugoslav Committee. There also appears to be a considerable shortage of workshop tools and equipment in Camp 4, which workshops were, on the whole, most inadequately provided for.
7. One of the factors that has repeatedly struck me in my visits to El Shatt is the fact that there does not appear to be an equitable distribution of either raw materials or tools to the various workshops and also, of each Camp Commandant fending for

himself would appear to prevail.

8. This naturally, most disadvantageously affects all refugees in the camp where the Camp Commandant, either because of lack of personal connections in the area or because of temperamental inability to scrounge, is unable to procure equipment over and above that available from Central Stores.

Recommendation

1. I feel a survey of workshops, equipment, tools, resources, both within and outside of the Camp, should be made by a competent person in order that procedures may be recommended that may result in more equitable allocation of tools and supplies from camp to camp.
2. It is essential that some adequate form of lighting be provided for recreational rooms and in some cases, even for workrooms. Pressure lamps are most urgently required. It must be pointed out that during this season the sun sets at about 5:30 p.m. which means that recreational rooms, reading rooms, class rooms, etc. cannot be used, i.e., one camp has three lamps available for night use, and these are, at present, utilised in the kitchens and dining rooms. Absence of lamps naturally means curtailment of all forms of activities, i.e., no evening classes can be held for adult illiterates, reading rooms are unused etc.

May I please be advised if it be absolutely impossible to provide any form of adequate lighting from UNRRA funds. Should this be so, I shall have to give serious consideration to the possibility of utilising some of the gift money, which I am most reluctant to do since there are so many other pressing needs and I consider provision of lighting to be a definite responsibility of the Administration.

3. It is most strongly recommended that immediate authority be granted to issue the following to all kitchen workers with the necessary provision for replacement:-
 - a) 2 sets of Khaki overalls (khaki drill in Camp and can be made up)
 - b) Strong boots.
 - c) 4 Head cloths (to cover women's heads to keep off soot)
 - d) 2 ozs. Toilet soap per person per week as a personal issue to all kitchen workers.
 - e) 4 ozs. Washing soap per person per week for purpose of washing their overalls.

Kitchen workers are working under most considerable discomfort and dirty conditions, drawing absolutely no remuneration and it is considered absolutely imperative that they should be properly clothed and provided with soap that will enable them to clean themselves.

There is a feeling of distress among the kitchen workers that their own few clothes are being ruined and also that they cannot clean themselves on the present issue of soap and are compelled to spend a part of their own pocket money on buying additional soap with which to wash themselves and their clothes.

4. a) I strongly recommend either that a member of Public Relations staff regularly visit each of the camps (approx. once in 4 to 6 weeks) and address an evening meeting, attendance at which should be voluntary of all Military and UNRRA members and that at this meeting all staff should be advised of the high lights of UNRRA Balkans Mission developments in the past period. Camps' staff feels desperately isolated and is absolutely starved for any news regarding UNRRA. Furthermore, some of the Military staff have only the most superficial knowledge of what UNRRA stands for, what it plans to do and what its set-up is.

I consider that individual camp morale is excellent but there is no feeling of UNRRA team spirit or UNRRA esprit de corps and a regular service such as outlined, would be most important.

- b) If it is impossible for a speaker to go out to the camps at regular intervals I strongly recommend the submission of a good UNRRA news-sheet which might start off on summarising UNRRA members, policies, etc. and in subsequent issues give details of the set up of the different Mission, agreements with the Military Authorities, etc.
- c) I also feel that some very simple publicity should be released for insertion in the Yugoslav daily newspaper and the Greek press or alternatively, that a special simple bulletin be published for refugee consumption.

I think the refugees also should be told a little more about UNRRA, what it stands for, how it operates and what it is actually doing in the Refugee Camps, i.e., although this may of course be an isolated case, it was brought to my attention that one or two of the refugees considered that all clothing issues, etc. were provided by Red Cross or other Relief Agencies.

I do not know whether there will be agreement on this point but I consider that it might be quite advisable if one of the latter memos be released to refugees to give them some indication of what the British civilian ration and clothing scales are and how these compare with what refugees are receiving in UNRRA Middle East camps.

9. The following action was taken:

- a) Agreement that Mr. Moles is to be posted in charge of overall welfare supervision in Camps 3 and 4.
- b) Mr. Skornik and Mr. Laub to commence individual personal service and case work with those families whose immigration has been agreed to by the Central Committee.
- c) Special child welfare study to be undertaken by Miss Braunlee and Mr. Ed. Harold.
- d) Miss Gospodaric to commence occupational therapy activities in the hospital.

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES

Telephone
RITTENHOUSE 9372

Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

American Friends Service Committee

Twenty South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia 7,  Pennsylvania

File: El Shatt

November 30, 1944

Carolyn Flexner
Refugee Camps Division
U N R R A
1344 Connecticut Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Carolyn:

Enclosed are verbatim copies of the October reports sent us through Barclay Jones from our nice unit members in the El Shatt camp. I am sure you will enjoy them just as we have.

I sent one copy of Sarah Howells' very interesting and detailed report to Miss Johnston.

I am making a digest for general circulation among the staff and committee here and will send that digest to Miss Sawyer in Chester Williams' office. Hertha Kraus has another complete copy similar to yours.

Sincerely,



Margaret E. Jones
Foreign Service Section

mej/est
ence.

ccp.

El Shatt---November 4, 1944

To: Barclay Jones

From: Sarah Howells

Received Phila.: November 25, 1944 with MEA 63

Re: Monthly report for October, 1944

There seems to be very little to report this month. As you already know, I wasted almost half the month being sick, but am again fit as a fiddle and shall be more careful in future.

Since returning to the job I have been night supervisor in the hospital.. I work 9:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. with (theoretically) two hours off during the night. To give you an idea of the job, I might review for you a moderately busy night.

7 p.m. Receive report from matron.

9:30 - Go to office, check to see what doctor is on call. Begin rounds. WOMEN'S WARDS (A, B, & C) - find a patient very nervous, unable to sleep, disturbing others. Inspect medicine shelf to see what I might give her. Find no Mist. Sedative, no Phenobarbital. Go to children's ward to borrow some phenobarbital. (While there, take a peek at the babies in Ward F.) Return to Ward A and supervise the giving of the phenobarbital. Look at other patients.

MEN'S Ward (E) - the nurse in charge speaks only German and Hebrew, so my conversations with her are very sketchy. "Patients OK?" "Number 7- no good." I look at #7. He had a stroke last week and is not very good, but there is nothing we can do for him. "Other patients OK?" "Yes". I take a look around and leave.

CHILDREN'S WARD D - #17, who has rheumatic fever, is crying with pain. I go to office to see what orders he has, find "phenobarbital p.r.n." "Koj da medicina?" "Gospodica Fistanic" "Gde je?" "U sobu F." I go to Ward F and ask when #17 last had medicine and what it was. No phenobarbital since 6 p.m. So I fix some and return to Ward D. Bolnicarka coaxes it down. I look at other children; this one is wet, that one is uncovered, room 11 has no air. I try to explain to bolnicarka that it is important to keep children dry and covered and to give them enough fresh air. I find #10 looks poorly. I take its pulse - not too good. I inspect the chart; no diagnosis. I tell the bolnicarka to watch it closely and call me if it gets worse, wondering the while what should be done for it.

CHILDREN'S WARD F - go to the office to read report left by day nurse. Am half through it when the bolnicarka from TB comes to say a patient is hemorrhaging. I go at once, give morphine, make sure there is ice in the water they are applying to her chest, return to main office and call the doctor. Wait for him there. He comes. We go to TB. He examines the patient, says to watch her and leaves. I read the report and do a round on TB, since I am there. I return to Children's Ward office, finish the report and see children in F. #3 looks very bad, weak pulse. It is a newly admitted pneumonia. I check the oxygen tank (guage doesn't work) - there seems to be sufficient oxygen. I give instructions to give it oxygen if it has trouble breathing or looks blue. On to

CHILDREN'S WARD G - Look at Room III. Only two children here, one dying of TB peritonitis, one of TB meningitis. There is nothing I can do for either. Speak briefly with the mothers (mothers of critically ill children are allowed to stay with them). See other children. One has a stomach ache and can't sleep. I inspect the chart, examine the child, inquire about vomiting and evacuation, check medicine received during the day. Order hot water bottle. Return to office to scrub with extra care.

MATERNITY - all ok except the mother who was delivered last night in the camp by a neighbor and bled a lot before arrival at the hospital. Feel her pulse, make a few inquiries, decide she is not critical and needs

nothing particular just now. Take a peek at the babies. This unit -

maternity - is usually ok and rarely needs my advice or help. It is staffed by Yugoslav Red Cross Nurses. The report is in Slovenian, so I don't even look at it unless I have lots of time and am feeling very curious. To ISOLATION - find the report tonight all in Hervatski (it is usually in English). Take some time to figure it out. Make round. All ok except Tent 15, Bed 4 can't sleep; nothing wrong, just isn't sleepy and wants to talk. Chat a minute and advise him to try to get to sleep. Speak to mother of child in T10/B3 (tent 10, bed 3), who is with her child because it has been critically ill with diphtheria, since she is awake. She says it is better and then launches into a long story in very fast Hervatski. I slow her down and get the general drift. Finally I finish the round and leave.

11:40 - Return to the office. Make out slip to be signed by the on-coming bolnicarke. I drink a cup of coffee (which I bring in a thermos from our mess at dinner time). Pass the time of night with the Scotsman who comes to light the gasoline pressure lamp.

12:00 - electric lights go out. New shift of bolnicarke come. I find only three signing in for Wards A, B, & C (should be 4). Inquiry reveals that Gospodica Urlic is having her night off. Only two (should be 4) for TB-Gospodica Pivac will be along in a minute, Gospodica Tomic is ill. Has she seen the doctor? No, but she will in the morning; she just got sick this evening. What's wrong? Her back aches & Kidneys, she thinks. Since TB can get along with three bolnicarke, I do nothing about this.

12:30 - Make a quick turn of the place again. One of the two lamps on Ward F won't work. I find the wick has been screwed down into the oil reservoir. Remedy that and get it lit. All is quiet. I check the patients whom I have previously seen who need special watching. F-3 looks a trifle better.

1:30 - Return to office. Start to study Hervatski.

1:43 - Bolnicarke comes from Ward A to say #14 has a lot of pain. I go to see her. Diagnosis is chronic appendicitis; now she is having severe abdominal pain, vomiting, high pulse. Decide she should be seen. Draw a map and explain elaborately, - with my limited Hervatski vocabulary, to the ambulance driver whom I have awakened, where he can find Dr. Mc. Send a note to Dr. Mc. Driver goes. I return to office to wait for the doctor. Try to learn a little Hervatski, but am not concentrating, keeping an ear out for the doctor.

2:10 - Driver returns - hasn't been able to find doctor. I go myself. The doctor comes, sees the patient, decides she should go to army hospital for possible immediate surgery. We make out papers. Driver cannot get ambulance started. I try to call transport but out phone is dead. I go to the telephone exchange and get the operator to call from there.

3:00 - Other ambulance arrives. We put patient, a bolnicarka and the necessary papers aboard and send them off, and have the telephone operator advise the hospital that they are on the way.

3:05 - Two men arrive from Camp I - they want an ambulance to get a woman in labor. I go again to the exchange to have transport called again. Then to maternity to advise them of the pending arrival. Return to office and Hervatski. Eat a sandwich and drink some more coffee.

3:30 - Ambulance arrives with patient who is admitted to maternity.

4:00 - I make another turn of the wards. F-3 looks a bit blue; we give it oxygen. Shoo out a mother who is visiting (against rules). Everything else ok.

4:45 - Return to office; study Hervatski.

6:00 - Rounds again and reports to write on Wards D, F, G, TB and Isolation

7:10 - Tidy up office, put out lamp. Write report for matron.

7:30 - to breakfast

7:50 - Verbal report to matron.

copy - page 3 to Barclay Jones from Sarah Howells

Some nights I never sit down at all, some nights I have two or three hours (not consecutive, of course) for study or reading or writing. It is an interesting shift and I really enjoy it. My greatest problem is language. Before midnight no one except one nurse on maternity speaks English, after midnight only the nurse on Ward E.

I am still on this shift, but have been told that I will probably be moved on November 12th; to what ward I am not sure, possibly TB. When we have enough hospital staff (if that time ever comes!), I will probably do tent visiting, as part of a public health program. I spoke to the matron about this, as you asked me to do, and she said she was willing to let me have a try at it, when I could be spared from the hospital. So that is how it stands now.

Last month my report was very late; this month it is a little late; give me one more chance, please.

We are hoping to see you here again, soon!

Yours,

Sarah

Enclosed also is the insurance form. Would you please fill in #21, page 1 - I don't know what I'm supposed to be claiming! The address under #10 page 1, was censored for security reasons.

Copy

El Shatt---November 1944
To: James Vail
From: William Edgerton
Received Phila.: November 25, 1944 with MEA 63
Re: Monthly report for October, 1944

Looking back on the eight weeks I have spent here in camp, I think I must say that practically the only accomplishments I can point to are merely preparatory to useful work rather than being useful in themselves: I have become acquainted with the camp, the refugees, the staff, and their problems and ways of doing things; and I have reached the point where I can get along fairly well in Croatian without an interpreter. So far, I doubt whether I have been worth the trouble it took to bring me over here, but my unfamiliarity with the camp and the language has been a good excuse. If I remain useless from now on, it will be my own fault!

Now that Bill Taylor has arrived to work with Vi Pfrommer and me in Camp 3, my activities are gradually shifting. Bill, with his vastly greater knowledge of crafts, is taking over my job of supervising the workshops; and I am taking over Vi's clothing distribution, which will continue to be a fair-sized job for some weeks to come. This change will free Vi for tent-visiting, public-health education, and other related activities. There is still a great deal of work that we have scarcely been able to touch, including schools, vocational training, recreation, and setting up an efficient system of dealing with inquiries about missing relatives abroad. Jobs enough for months to come lie before us, awaiting the moment when we get one well enough organized to turn to another.

We are all pleased that Edward Wright, Oscar Marshburn, and Bill Taylor have now joined us here, and we look forward to the arrival of Evarts Loomis and Louise Tibbetts. Oscar's assignment to Camp 2, which is several miles away, has rather isolated him from the rest of our group. Unfortunate as it is for us, it should be good for Camp 2, which I understand has been somewhat understaffed. I think there is no question about our all being very glad that we decided to stay here in camp indefinitely, where there is plenty of work to be done, rather than join the majority of the voluntary-agency personnel in their long, idle, frustrating wait for something to happen. Those months of comparative idleness, plus the failure to give the old MERRA personnel any idea of what UNRRA was all about, plus the sight and sound at close range of the grinding of the whole bureaucracy, have had their effect on the morale of a good part of the workers out here. I still believe strongly in the purpose of UNRRA and in the importance of making the organization a success. I still hope it will succeed. At the same time, I am extremely glad that I am here as a representative of A.F.S.C. and that I am working, as Henry Russell says, at the "Worm's-eye level" here in camp, where there are plenty of simple tangible jobs to do.

copy

El Shatt----November 2, 1944

To: Margaret E. Jones

From : Viola G. Pfrommer

Received Phila.: November 25, 1944 with MEA 63

Re: Monthly report for October, 1944

Dear Margaret,

With all Saint's Day yesterday and a special Partisan celebration today the holiday mood has pervaded the Camps except in Camp III where preparations for another intake of Khatatba had to go forward. At eight this morning four small boys appeared as the labor squad for the day; with persuasion and some pressure from the Administration about 150 women were on hand in the afternoon to put up the tents that had just arrived from Khatatba by train for the group that is coming from Khatatba early in the morning. One woman does the work of three men and that willingly.

It's good to have Ed, Bill, and Oscar here. Oscar is at Camp II so we don't see as much of him as of the others. Bill T. has been assigned to Camp III with Bill E. He has come at a time of reorganization so that his skills are invaluable. Bill E. is taking over clothing distribution so that I may have a little more time to devote to general welfare and public health. This week we started off sixteen girls who had a basic course in hygiene on tent visiting. This will mean close supervision and some teaching; a full time job if circumstances only permitted. Tents are in the foreground so we are hoping that Bill T. will be able to get the school project started this coming week.

Little by little restiveness increases. Ever since the wild celebration of the fall of Dubrovnik with bonfires, much singing, and many speeches, it has been difficult to get anyone to make plans for the immediate future. When we first expressed interest in Christmas plans only smiles appeared. The thought everywhere is "We will be back in our country in another month".

Many thanks for the passport. It has helped a good deal in clarifying our role and in explaining the difference between the Partisan star and our star.

We have missed seeing Barclay this last week and are hoping that he may appear this week-end.

The letter on the French situation was interesting and helpful. Any more News?

Best wished to you all,

Viola G. Pfrommer

copy

El Shatt -- November 2, 1944

To: James Vail

From Rebecca Taylor

Received Phila: November 25, 1944 with MEA 63

Re: Monthly report for October, 1944

Dear James Vail:

A new month is beginning; the full moon is beautiful in the cloudy sky over the tent tops; voices are audible as a group is starting off to a party at Camp II; the Yugoslav girls who work in our mess are singing as they finish up in the kitchen close-by; and I am collecting on paper here some thoughts which may be of interest to you.

The days whiz by and each one seems full-to-the-brim for me! But in contrast to the huge problems, policies, and intricate planning which welfare officers face, (and which I hear lots about because of intimacy with Vi) I find that my working hours are spent in much the same way each day and that my problems are so comparatively minor. It's true that there is a very big job to do (rather dozens of little ones each involving a different patient) and at times I'm quite swamped. Little handicaps arise when we break some precious item (or "items", and recently these were our only two syringes used daily for sedimentation rate tests for TB.) or when the load of routine things seems to take precedence over the opportunity to teach Luiga, my Yugoslav helper, some technic or the distinguishing characteristics of blood cells, for example.

But in general the situation is a happy one and gradually we'll acquire more needed equipment and assistance. Moses Wells may soon send its lab work here, and with Khatatba coming over steadily but surely, I'm sure there'll be need for additional lab personnel.

Sarah and I went off for three days in mid-October to Ismailia and we certainly enjoyed the break. The lab closed during this time which is something which can't happen too frequently; but it's important to relax now and again in the M.E.

Mail has been coming through in good quantity recently and I want to pass on a comment received in a letter to me: that "Friends might pass on to CPS 'trainees' some tit-bits about foreign service similar to those published by the Menonites". Perhaps our "tit-bits" from this region have been slow in reaching you!

The joys of this life out here are many, really! How I wish more could share them.

Most sincerely,

Rebecca Taylor

copy

El Shatt No. 2---November 7, 1944

To: Barclay Jones

From: Oscar O. Marshburn

Received Phila. November 25, 1944 with MEA 63

RE: Monthly report of October, 1944

Dear Barclay Jones:

The following is a brief report after two weeks at El Shatt. First I will give a short statement, for any record you may wish to keep, of activities since I left Washington. Leaving Washington on Sept. 6th with Taylor, Wright and 13 others with Unrra we soon found ourselves at a Port of Embarkation Camp and in the care of the U. S. army. For the five days here we were shown every courtesy and given some equipment and informed of the Security regulations.

When we went aboard ship we found the situation different than we had anticipated. That is; the 16 Unrra men with 70 enlisted men and officers assigned to bunks or strips of canvas on which we were to live for the next 28 days. Sub-steerage passengers and the 86 of us slept, ate, showered (when there was any salt water available), played, read and wrote in a space about 30 by 38 feet. We realized that to keep well on such a trip was of first importance. Because the galley crew felt that they had been employed to serve only the ships crew they somewhat resented galley work for the 86 men in the hold. Therefore officers, we civilians and enlisted men alike took our turn at K. p. and galley duty which I think was a good thing to help insure cleanliness around the food. Half of my K.P. time was washing pots and pans in the galley and the other half was serving food and cleaning around the steam tables for our own group of 86. Our deck space was limited to the top of one hatch and a small amount of space on both the port and starboard sides. All in all it was an interesting experiment in living together and before the end of the journey a group of us joined with several soldiers each evening on top of the hatch to discuss "Post War Problems". It was an experience that I am glad to have had but would not ask for the same kind of a trip again. Many of our soldiers are finding themselves in even more crowded conditions I am sure. About 24 hours after landing the army officially released us to UNRRA.

On being released from the U.S. army we found that our association with the British Army was started and every night since I left Washington I have slept under the roof or canvas of the army. While located near Cairo for the first 13 days in Egypt we had time for an orientation course (Middle East version) and also to attend to personal and business affairs in and around Cairo.

Arriving at El Shatt headquarters on the night of Oct. 23d I spent the next two days there which gave me an opportunity to visit camps 1 and 3 and to witness the arrival of a train load from Katatba. First impressions are often lasting and I am sure that some of the impressions of these two days will remain with me. The self sufficiency of these people to make the things they need out of little, the spirit that seems to permeate them. Work shops for shoes, wood, tin, metals and then the more formalized brands of education that was being carried on there including art, sculptoring, music and sports. At the end of the second day I was assigned to Camp No. 2 in the Welfare department. Mr. Kershof of the Mennonite Central Committee had been on desk here since last March. Miss Killian of the American Committee for Christian Refugees for about 6 weeks, one British army gunner, one refugee tent visitor, one refugee typist, 2 interpreters and 2 couriers and myself make up the Welfare department and being responsible to the Camp Commandant.

I was asked to interest myself particularly in the schools and sports programs. I know the first days are always the most

difficult on a job but I have been trying to get acquainted with the people responsible for this program, with the conditions under which we have to work and to ascertain what supplies are needed and obtainable. I have been constantly reminded of such phrases as; "Culture Pattern" "Help people to help themselves" etc. and it has seemed to me that most of the this first two weeks has been spent in "observation". Many opinions have come to my mind but it is too soon to pass them on as they might seem to be judgements.

I am sure the people are fine and particularly the children. They seem to be the most loveable and friendly and the little fellows 5 and 6 years old like to salute us with a "Zdrovo" (hello or good health). I have had some very interesting conversations and have heard the stories of some who have been refugees for the last seven years. Most of them not so long however. Also I realize that here are people who have been teachers, bankers, clerks, farmers, rich and poor, fishermen and various other occupations. Considerations have to be made in the light of conditions as they are here and the background and experiences many of them have had particularly the last few years. Like millions of other people in the world today they are waiting the time that they can return to their homes or native land or many of them to the homes of near relatives in many parts of the world.

Many interesting things have come my way but tonight I had a rather unusual experience of hearing a Yugoslav chorus on the Egyptian desert sing "God Save the King" and the "Star Spangled Banner" it being election day in the United States but the whole program put on in celebration of the 27th anniversary of the Russian revolution.

I expect to send this note along with Edward Wright together with Four Pounds that you so kindly advanced when I left Cairo so hurriedly. Thank you for that and all the other efforts you put forth in my behalf while I was there.

I trust everything is satisfactory with you.

Most sincerely

Oscar O. Marshburn

copy

El Shatt --November 1, 1944

To James Vail

From: Henry G. Russell

Received Phila.: November 25, 1944 with MEA 63

Re: Monthly report for October, 1944

(Dear) James Vail:

Today is All Saint's Day; most of the Yugoslav refugee workmen are taking the day off, and it gives me a good chance to sit down and write you of what's been going on for the past month or so. As you probably already know, the refugees from Khatatba are being moved here - and along with them a hundred chickens and ten rabbits; so we have to get a place ready for the livestock here. We've also been told that nine horses and four mules are coming from Cairo and that we should get stables ready for them. Almost all of my time this month has been spent on this "farm yard" job. First I had to consult with the hygiene officer on the proper place for the farmyard. The spot we chose is right near an abandoned ablution bench, so fresh water is available. The nearest refugee tents are half a mile away - and up wind; so that, hopefully, any flies that breed around the place will be blown out into the open desert rather than into people's homes - ditto with farmyard smells, etc. Once the place had been chosen, we had to see the Yugoslav Central Committee about workmen and builders. In due course arrangements were made, but it took somewhat longer than it takes to write about it. Anyway we now have a farmyard work gang of fifteen men - although on any one day you'd probably not find more than ten or twelve of them at work. But that's really not at all bad when you realize that the only compensation they get for their work is an extra daily ration of bread and cigarettes. You might wonder why the refugees work at all, when they know that they will be fed, clothed, and sheltered even if they do no work. The question has interested me, but I don't know that there's any one answer to it. Some of the men, I think, work principally for the extra ration of cigarettes, which by the way are very much in demand out here. Some work to avoid utter boredom. Others work because they're really interested in the job. Still others come along just because they want to be with the gang - away from the women and children for a while. I don't know whether you've ever seen farm hands, garage mechanics, old men and what not sitting on the curb outside the postoffice of some small midwestern town. Anyway I feel that many of the jobs here serve the same function that the postoffice curb does in an Iowa town. It gives the men a chance to be with their pals, to be away from "the old woman," to talk about politics, and women, and the weather, and when the war will end. The work itself may not be very important, and they may not work very hard at it, but at least it's "man's work;" and it gives them a certain amount of self-respect, and a certain amount of prestige in the eyes of credulous wives, dogs, and small boys.

But now to get back to the main subject. I was saying that we had fifteen men on the farm yard job. One of them is a first-rate builder-architect who is used to putting up buildings a good deal more elaborate than stables and chicken pens. He's a hard, conscientious worker. He knows what he wants to do and how to do it, and all I have to do is try to supply him with the materials. Then we have two apprentice carpenters, both about eighteen years old - both enthusiastic, and neither too responsible - but the master builder keeps them on the job. Most of the rest of the workers are farmer - fishermen, some of them with some experience of

shipbuilding - boatbuilding would probably be a more accurate word. They're a jolly, good-natured crew, slow but fairly steady workers - and good fun to be with.

Once we had the spot picked and the workers assigned, the next job was to get tools and materials. Most of the tools came from the quartermaster's, although some of them were borrowed from the camp work-shops. Most of the building materials have come from quartermaster's, army engineers, or salvage depot. They include such things as cement, mud bricks, telephone poles, odd lot timber, second hand corrugated sheet metal, reed matting, barbed wire, nails, gunny sacking, gravel. Sand was one thing we didn't have to go far to find. Along with labor and material, there was and still is the problem of transport. Each day we have to ask for a truck, and we get one about four days in six. When we do get a truck, the routine is something like this: 8:15 a.m. - round up workmen and take them to work. Things finally get moving about 8:45 or 9. Eight or nine men are left on the job, and three or four men go with the truck to pick up materials. Depending on the nature of the load and the distance to be hauled, we get in one to three trips in the morning, and one or two in the afternoon. Work stops about 11:45, and the workers are driven back to their tents for lunch. At 2:15 they're picked up again, and they work to 5:15 or so, when they're again taken home. On the days when we don't have a truck, the same general routine goes on, except that everything is slower, and less is accomplished.

As of today, the chicken pen and rabbit yard combined are about half-finished. The walls are made of telephone pole upright, with gunny sacking stretched across them, and barbed wire across the gunny sacking - all to the height of about 8 feet. We hope this will discourage night prowlers. Incidentally we have also had to arrange to house Yugoslav watchmen on duty every night to see that the building materials don't disappear. They are armed with pick axe handles. The stable is just getting started - concrete floor, brick side walls, matting for the roof. We now have almost all the materials we need, and from now on it's mainly a building job. Two tents have been pitched - for the nightwatchman and for materials, a latrine has been dug, and a temporary workshop has been set up. The next time Barclay's down, he may take some pictures of the place that will give you a better idea of what it's like. Only don't expect too much. The whole affair is really very simple and even primitive, but just the same it's been good fun both for the Yugoslavs and for me.

In addition to the farmyard project, we've kept on with the little gardens around the headquarters buildings, hospital, etc. We got some empty gasoline cans ("petroll tins" is what we had to ask for), white-washed them, and set them up around the hospital area. We've also planted a few cactus plants around the hospital.

Bill Taylor, Ed Wright, and Oscar Washburn have all arrived here and been welcomed by us. They brought with them our AFSC identification books; and in the past week alone I've used mine at least ten times - showing it to Yugoslavs, Egyptians, and Greeks.

This just about rounds out the picture for me, except that before I close I want to emphasize how really wonderful I've found the life out here to be - it's a hundred per cent better than I had imagined when I was in College Park. The Yugoslavs are grand people to work with, and they've completely won my heart.

Yours sincerely,

Henry G. Russell

P.S. Could you see that Rufus Jones, Henry Cadbury, Douglas Steere, and my wife get to see this letter or a copy of it.

Copy

El Shatt -- October 31, 1944

To:

From: Edward N. Wright

Received Phila. November 25, 1944 with MEA 63

Re: Monthly report of October, 1944

As this is only my fourth week in Egypt and second week at El Shatt camp this first report is necessarily limited to first impressions and instructions.

After arriving in Cairo and learning of the unsatisfactory and indefinite status of the Philippeville refugee camp, to which I had been assigned in Washington, it seemed advisable for me to remain in the Cairo area until assigned to some other place where welfare personnel was in demand.

Without a previous knowledge of needs and working conditions in the field it was extremely difficult to choose one's most effective type of service. Therefore we AFSC representatives were fortunate in having the advice and counsel of J. Barclay Jones, Commissioner, and Miss Gifford, of the UNRRA Camps Division. As a result of their advice and of our own inclination we chose El Shatt Camp as our first point of service in connection with the Yugoslavian Mission.

In the first few days at El Shatt it was difficult to determine one's exact position in the Welfare picture and even now the process of orientation is far from complete. Also the different lines of authority and action in the camp- military, civilian, and refugee- were decidedly confusing to a new-comer and a novice.

After being assigned to the Welfare section of Camp #1, I was asked by Major Edwards, the Commandant, to help him in carrying out the following projects: (1) the construction and equipping of four district reading and recreation centers, (2) the enlargement of the Yugoslav canteen, and (3) the construction of an outdoor amphitheater or auditorium.

As preliminary plans for all of these projects have been prepared and as all of the manual work is done by the Yugoslavians themselves, I interpreted my function as that of a liaison officer to see that materials are available or under order and to consult from time to time with the persons directly responsible for carrying out the work. The fact that Camp 1 is the oldest and has the reputation of being well organized means that most of the essential projects were initiated in the past by the competent welfare staff and from now on it will be largely a process of improving existing facilities and keeping the refugees as well satisfied as possible until they can return to their homes. It should be mentioned in passing that much more could have been done in all of the camps if the required materials had been available. The great wonder is that so much has been accomplished, thanks to the ingenuity of the British military staff and the refugees themselves.

After the long and somewhat frustrating process of training and waiting it is a great satisfaction to be at work in such pleasant surroundings and with such congenial associates. I am looking forward to the coming months with real anticipation.

Edward N. Wright

copy

El Shatt -- November 1, 1944
To James G. Vail
From William H. Taylor
Received Phila.: November 25, 1944 with MEA 63
Re: Monthly report for October, 1944

Dear James G. Vail:

My first monthly field report must necessarily be short because I have been in the field for only a short time.

Itinerary

Left Washington September 5, 1944

Arrived at UNRRA field training center October 11, 1944

Arrived at El Shatt Refugee Center October 23, 1944

Last Sunday when we were having meeting on one of the sand dunes, I think most of us were searching for an evaluation of our experiences to date. Several experiences were parallel. We receive a real spiritual boost when we hear the rich Yugoslavian choir, watch the active friendly children at play, and see the unselfish acts of adult refugees. It is a tonic that overcomes the apparant confusion of management and the lack of supply and transport. The handcuffing due to the lack of supplies certainly dampens the enthusiasm created by examining global problems at the training center. Under prevailing conditions of hard living and a cruel and deprived past, the problems of troubled refugees take on a human appeal against which one can only measure his own inadequacies.

My duties at the camp seem to be settling into the following pattern.

1. Exerting some influence over production in the work shops, (carpenter, metal, shoemakers, etc.) vocational training and scrouging of material.
2. Developing a general "as built" plan of camp III to include new facilities as a community center group. New facilities means tentage for schools, block canteens, nursery schools, out-door stage, craft shops and a recreation hall.
3. Offering planning advice (on which the camp commander sharpens his teeth) to enlarge the plant for 2000 refugees from Khatatba.

I assume that El Shatt Camp has been so well described in reports from the other seven AFSC workers that I need only ride on their laurels. I have been assigned to camp, III in which Vi and Bill Edgerton work. They have given me invaluable orientation.

Next month I hope my report will be more in the nature of a progress report.

Sincerely,

William H. Taylor

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REMARKS

DATE

DRAFTER

RM.

307-319

7 June 1945

Memorandum to Mr. Hoehler

From: Robert Brown *RB*

Subject: Letter from Mr. William Thompson at El Shatt

I am sending you herewith excerpts from a letter written by Bill Thompson to Neville Miller.

"Things are still going along here in the usual chaotic way. I have a new job for a short time, that of an area manager of the Messes, Officers, B.O.R.'s and Sgts. So many people leaving both military and refugees has made it necessary to reorganize these Messes from top to bottom. Strangely enough, I do not believe UNRRA when being set up ever gave much thought to the possibility of its own people being left without any provision for their own living accommodations."

"The military are leaving very fast - both officers and B.O.R.s. Sure do hate to see the latter go as we need them. Replacing them are welfare workers but we don't need welfare workers. What would like to have in my department are a few employees from the Jefferson Meat Market, Louisville Grocery Co. and Tafel Electric Co. or similar folks but wouldn't they have a "heluva" time trying to get in UNRRA?"

"Some of the officers that left said they could not reconcile the "kicking out" of themselves while at the same time putting in as Head of Mission an officer from another nation, yet basing it all on "civilianization." I pointed out to one that U.S.P.H.S. was not exactly military but he thought the distinction pretty fine.

" . . . Fortunately the refugee flights are progressing well and it is just like a horse race as to whether the refugees get out first or the staff first."

"No summer uniforms for us yet although the heat is terrific. We can now mail "family" letters via diplomatic pouch - all others regular Egyptian."

"The way we are moving refugees out now, we should have most of them out by July 31, if there is no slip-up in transportation. At that time I will have been with UNRRA ten months and here at this spot for seven months and if still alive, I am going to ask for a transfer to some other spot for three more months or for transportation back home. I will hate to return in July without having done something else but seven months here, including summer months, is enough."

I think it would be very unwise to loose Bill Thompson. He has been in charge of a sub-camp in El Shatt and has had vast experience in handling food for a chain of hotels throughout the country.

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UNITED YUGOSLAV RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA

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11 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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Plaza 3-7291

Vol. 4

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1945

No. 1

United National Clothing Collection Campaign, First Project of Its Kind, to Start April 1, With 150,000,000 lbs. of Clothing as Goal

IN a combined effort to secure the maximum possible quantity of good used clothing for free distribution to the destitute people of war devastated countries, the United National Clothing Collection Campaign has been organized.

Scheduled for April 1-30, with 150,000,000 lbs. of clothing as its goal, the drive will be conducted under the sponsorship of a national committee headed by Henry J. Kaiser, who has been appointed National Chairman by President Roosevelt. The national committee will consist of representatives from the United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America, many other voluntary war relief agencies and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, as well as representatives from national civic, industrial, labor, church and other organizations.

The campaign, similar in scope to the National War Fund, will reach every community, large and small, in the United States.

"Spearhead committees," composed of presidents of three local service groups—Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions—will invite representatives of all groups—war relief agencies, industrial, labor, agricultural, religious, educational and civic—to name local committees and chairmen for the drive.

All clothing received during the United Campaign will be shipped from local committees to specified regional warehouses, freight charges collect, and will go into a common pool. The garments will then be sent abroad to the war devastated countries on the basis of the greatest immediate need and available shipping space, and will be distributed to the needy without discrimination.

As the United Collection provides the best possible method of securing used clothing in maximum quantity for Yugoslavia, the United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America appeals to all its committees, cooperating groups and friends to give their complete and wholehearted support to this great humanitarian cause.

Although the campaign is scheduled for April, the UYRF, in order to extend its full cooperation to the campaign, has agreed that all clothing it receives from March first until a date to be set by the United National Clothing Collection Committee will be considered a part of the campaign proceeds. Until March 1st, however, the Fund will continue its normal collection in the usual manner.

So substantial has been the amount of clothing received by the U. Y. R. F. during the past several months, that it was necessary to secure a new and more spacious warehouse. Located at 877 Broadway, near 18th Street, the new warehouse can be reached easily by subway or bus from all parts of New York. With an area of approximately 13,000 sq.

ft.—5,000 sq. ft. more than the former warehouse—it consists of a street floor with a mezzanine in the rear, and a very large basement.

There is every reason to believe that the new quarters will be designated as a general depot for the National Clothing Collection Campaign, as it has ample space to receive large quantities of clothing, and the personnel and equipment to sort and bale the garments.

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PARCELS FOR YUGOSLAV WAR PRISONERS



One of the volunteer activities at the Fund's new warehouse in New York.

Volunteers, under the leadership of Mme. Ivan Soubbotitch and Mrs. Frano Petrinovic, packing 6,500 parcels for hospitalized Yugoslav prisoners of war with supplies purchased by the Fund. Each parcel contains: 1 sleeping garment; 2 hand towels; 1 bath towel; 2 cakes of laundry soap; 1 pair of bedroom slippers; 1 sewing kit; 1 game; 1 indelible pencil; 1 writing pad; 1 package of Visyneral Vitamins; 1 handkerchief; 1 tooth brush; 1 package of tooth powder and 1 comb.

While the packing was in progress, over fifty War Chest representatives, who were in New York attending the annual conference of the National War Fund, visited the warehouse. They were taken on a tour of the quarters and were shown how the collected clothing is sorted and baled. The visitors expressed admiration at the efficiency with which the warehouse is being operated and said they were glad to have first hand knowledge of these activities of the UYRF.

Introducing: Five New Members of Fund's Board of Directors



Dorsey Richardson



Dr. George Baehr



Harold F. Sheets

Dr. George Baehr is Chief of the First Medical Service and Director of Clinical Research at the Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Columbia University. During World War I, he served in the Balkans and in Russia as a member of the American Red Cross Sanitary Commission, and was a member of the Typhus Commission which went to Serbia in 1915.

George MacDonald is chairman of the board of Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and director of Richfield Oil Corporation, Petroleum Corporation of America, Foundation Corporation, Sinclair Oil Corporation and Cities Service Corporation. He is actively interested in numerous philanthropic and welfare organizations.

Dorsey Richardson is vice-chairman of Lehman Corporation, well-known investment firm. In 1919, he was administrator of American Relief for Latvia and Lithuania. Mr. Richardson was associated with the State Department for a number of years and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Edgar Rickard is chairman of the Board of the Peje-scot Paper Company, the Hazeltine Corporation and the Hazeltine Electronics Corporation. He was associated with Herbert Hoover in numerous relief projects, including the Commission for Relief in Belgium. He is president of the American Children's Fund and of the Finnish Relief Fund.

Harold F. Sheets is chairman of the board of the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc. From 1920-1924, while living in Paris, he was chairman of the executive committee of the American Hospital in Paris and director of the American Relief Fund of that city, thus acquiring an intimate knowledge of relief problems.

SPECIAL PROJECT FINANCED BY UYRF THROUGH UNRRA

National Headquarters is glad to announce that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) has accepted \$57,000 from the UYRF to provide greatly needed educational, recreational and vocational items for approximately 40,000 Yugoslav refugees in the Middle East and Italy. These materials cannot be supplied by UNRRA under its own budget. A part of the sum will be used to purchase motion picture projectors, electric generators, screens and a traveling film library. Instructional and vocational films will be made available as well as "movies" for entertainment. Films concerning disease control and personal hygiene will be included.

Refugee Life in El Shatt, Egypt Told by Overseas Staff Worker

Describing the conditions under which the Yugoslav refugees live at camp El Shatt, Camille Killian, staff member of the American Christian Committee for Refugees, in her first report to that organization writes on the courage of these refugees in meeting many hardships, and appeals for supplies to help "a proud, independent people, which is why they are alive and hold such great hope for the future of their country."

Excerpts from Miss Killian's letter, which appeared in the November-December issue of "Newscast," official organ of the American Christian Committee for Refugees, follow:

"I am stationed at Camp 2 in El Shatt, which latter I believe you know is the Yugoslav camp. El Shatt consists of three camps and camp headquarters. The three camps have a total refugee population of 21,000. Camp 2 has a population of 7,500. In Camp 2 we have largely people from the Dalmatian Coast and the Islands. Rumor has it that some of these people, especially the Islanders, have transferred some of their cultural patterns in somewhat poor household standards to the refugee camp. The refugees and some of the staff live in tents. The refugees, around fifteen in a tent—generally from the same village or community, but frequently, they had not known each other before their refugee experience. Living in such close proximity puts a strain on human beings hard for us to comprehend. My hat goes off daily to these courageous people, some of whom have suffered so much—despite which they maintain a courage and will to come back and rebuild.

Largely Children

"The other day I had my first death—a child of 5. The mother, still a young woman, lost her husband in the fighting in Yugoslavia. She has three other children. I'm afraid I took it harder than she did. The courage of these mothers—and the love of these people for their children! A large percentage of the camp population of course is made up of children, for they were the ones—together with the aged—who were saved. In our own camp we have 185 technical orphans—i. e., they are without parents here and many of them are known to be without parents anywhere, and probably many more will be real orphans by the time they return. The adults in the tent, very often people from their village, look after them.

Vital Statistics

"The tents are arranged in blocks—A B C D—the blocks varying in size dependent on the size of the flight of refugees. The first may be 1,000 then 2,000, and 3,000. Rumor has it we are to expect another flight which will be divided among the camps. We will be losing about 500 from Camp 2—children under five who for health reasons will be moved to Talembutt (a healthier and finer spot near the sea). In this group will be my pet orphans—real ones. Parents are dead. The oldest is a girl, Anka, 14—the sweetest, most cheerful child you want to meet, who mothers the rest of the brood, four in all. She is being helped in the mothering process by the adults in the tent, people of high standards. The baby, only 1½ years old, now after seven or eight months in a refugee camp, is adorable and as one of the adults said, 'everyone is a mother to him.' The early sights of the children must have been terrible—and so many died. Just from curiosity I checked the statistics on births, deaths and marriages in this camp the other day. The deaths were almost 3 to 1 birth, and only six marriages; with the camp made up largely of mothers and children, the Yugoslavs are going to have to do something about an increase in population.

Need For Supplies

"The Army, who set up these camps, has done a beautiful job. The Yugoslavs, who as I understand it have largely set up the camp program, have done a remarkable job. There are training schools for nurses and hygienists, dressmakers, toy shop for women. For the men there are a carpenter shop, a tin shop, a forge, a shoemaker shop, a soap factory. The crying need, and please cry this throughout the land, is for supplies. If there were more supplies they could make more things, have more tent space for the training of more people, and thus be training more to take over when they get to Yugoslavia. I asked them how they thought we could be helpful—'give us supplies, we can do the rest.' And apparently this goes for when they get to Yugoslavia too. A proud, independent people, which is why they are alive and holding such great hopes for the future of their country."

Boston Committee Hard at Work

The Fund's Boston Committee, one of its best functioning units, has added another relief project to its many activities. Morton P. Prince, chairman, has informed National Headquarters that sewing circles are now being formed to prepare garments for Yugoslav children. The groups will be under the supervision of Mrs. Charles O. Pengra, a member of the executive committee.

Meanwhile, the clothing collection, the educational program and other activities are being conducted as effectively as ever. Under the energetic leadership of Mrs. Somers Fraser, chairman of the clothing campaign, every effort is being made to obtain as many serviceable garments as possible. In this connection, the Christian Science War Relief Committee, which a few months ago donated 3,500 lbs. of good used clothing to the Fund's Boston Committee, has requested its New York branch to send 25 cases of clothing, consisting of 3,184 lbs. of miscellaneous garments and shoes, to the UYRF's warehouse in New York.

Lectures on Yugoslavia have been arranged to take place at the Unitarian Church Forum in Whitman and at the Massachusetts Women's Club in Deerfield. The Fund was represented at a United Nations benefit recently held at Radcliffe College. The Yugoslav flag, posters, and pictures were on display and articles from the committee's shop were sold.

Escaped Yugoslav War Prisoners Received Supplies from UYRF

From somewhere in France, an American Pfc. wrote his mother in Hawthorne, N. J., that he had met escaped Yugoslav prisoners of war who told him that they had received parcels from the United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America. The letter follows:

"The other day, I came across a number of Yugoslavs. They had been taken here by the Germans to work, but later escaped. I talked with a lot of them. They were all farmers and one was a baker. They were swell. Of course, I had to talk to them with a little caution, but I am now positive that they were good fellows. I showed them the pictures I always carry with me and they enjoyed them very much. They said that they had received packages from the United Yugoslav Relief in America."

"Contribute to the Yugoslavs . . .

They Have Seen Hell"

A contribution of \$550 has just been made to the Fund from a Piqua, Ohio, business man, at the request of his son, an American lieutenant, navigator on a B-24. While flying over Austria, the plane was badly hit by the enemy, forcing the crew to bail out. They landed near the German lines in Yugoslavia. Fortunately, they were rescued by Yugoslav fighters who later helped them to escape. The entire crew is now back at their base in Italy. Moved by the kindness and hospitality shown by the Yugoslav fighters, the lieutenant wrote his father, "If you ever get a chance to contribute to the Yugoslavs, do it. They have seen hell, and they saved my life."

A. F. of L. and C. I. O. Unions Allocate Funds to the UYRF

The United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America has been privileged to be included among the agencies which have received an allocation from funds raised for war relief by members of A. F. of L. and C.I.O. unions.

As reported to the National War Fund, donations of \$1,000.00 each were made by the Hotel and Club Employees Union, Local 6, A. F. of L., and the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers of America, District Council No. 9, A. F. of L. The National Maritime Union of America, C. I. O., and the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, Local 16, A. F. of L., also made substantial contributions.

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

The United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America is a non-denominational and non-political organization. Its purpose is to help all suffering Yugoslavs, through authorized channels, whenever or wherever they can be reached, without regard to their religious, racial, or political background.



Members of the Junior Guild of the Church of The Heavenly Rest who have volunteered to sew layette garments for the UYRF. Standing, left to right, the ladies are: Mrs. Clement B. Masson, Mrs. Brooks Palmer, Mrs. Jeffrey Granger, Mrs. Lee Lambert, Mrs. John McGrath, Mrs. George Scarlett, Mrs. Max Pollock; Seated: Mrs. Renville H. McMann, Mrs. Gladys Taylor, Mrs. Southall Graham, Mrs. Maxwell Scott, chairman, Mrs. Sprague Carleton, Mrs. Robert Schleussner, Mrs. John Caffrey, Mrs. Ellis Finch, Miss Marion Iler, and Mrs. Amelia Reuter. The Rev. Henry Darlington, D. D., is Rector of the Church.

TO KEEP YUGOSLAV CHILDREN WARM



Members of Local 10 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, A. F. of L.; employed by the Weiner Blouse Company of New York, cutting material for garments for Yugoslav children. Left to right the cutters are: Dave Schwartz, Samuel Fink and Harry Kirschner.

Mr. Albert Weiner

An ardent friend of Yugoslavia, Albert Weiner, owner of the Weiner Blouse Company of New York, has been giving exceptional support to the Fund. On three different occasions, he made available the facilities of his plant where 11,427 yards of material were cut for approximately 9,000 garments—girls' dresses and boys' shorts for Yugoslav children.



The American Red Cross, through whose facilities the Fund provides medical supplies for the people of Yugoslavia, has donated 100,000 cellulose surgical dressings to the UYRF. National Headquarters deeply appreciates this gift, which will reduce the estimated cost of the Fund's current medical program by approximately \$5,000.00.



Report From the Field Director

(Flavel Barnes completes first field trip)

Active Committees Formed—Conference With Fund's Columbus chairman—Interview with Ohio Governor—Ground Work for Cleveland Committee.

In Indianapolis, Mrs. Donovan Turk, well-known as a lecturer to civic groups, has accepted the chairmanship of the committee and is already planning to conduct a clothing collection and to organize sewing groups.

In Detroit, R. Bliss Wolfe of the Hannan Real Estate Exchange is the new chairman of the committee and is using his organizing skill to build a strong group in that war-conscious city. Mr. Wolfe succeeds Wendell Goddard, the former chairman.

In Columbus, Miss Barnes conferred with N. J. Barack, chairman of the Fund's committee. Mr. Barack has the enviable record of having delivered lectures on Yugoslavia before forty-seven organizations. He talked not only in Columbus, but also in other cities throughout Ohio. His committee is actively cooperating with the Ohio Division of the National War Fund and the War Chest of Franklin County. Mr. Barack is City Recreation Director.

While in Columbus, Miss Barnes had an interview with Governor Frank L. Lausche of Ohio. Governor Lausche is a first generation American of Yugoslav descent and is very much interested in the UYRF's organization in that city. He told Miss Barnes that he approved heartily the Fund's policy in extending relief to destitute Yugoslavs without regard to their religious, racial or political background.

In Cleveland, officials of the War Chest and many other people of prominence agreed with Governor Lausche, former Mayor of Cleveland, that a UYRF committee should be organized soon in their city, which has one of the largest Yugoslav populations in the country.

State and City War Chests gave Miss Barnes able assistance and splendid cooperation throughout her field trip. Ohio, Indiana and Michigan are very much concerned with foreign relief problems and feel that strong committees of National War Fund agencies are of direct benefit to their program of activities.

UNITED YUGOSLAV RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA

Sponsored by
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF YUGOSLAVIA, INC.

National Headquarters
11 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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COLLIN WELLS, National Director
EMIL ROSENBERG, Publicity Director

BOZO BANAC, Chairman, Committee on Yugoslav Cooperation

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

A cable from Pastor Adolf Freudenberg of the Ecumenical Refugee Committee of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, forwarded through the American Legation in Bern, reads as follows:

During the recent months courageous refugee activities has given Cimade* a strong position with the authorities of France and with the resistance group. Refugees formerly aided still need assistance. It is planned by the government to sift most of the categories of foreigners in transit camps, and this will mean a number of social workers. Cimade continues to pioneer in the work of organizing and suggesting aid to the neediest French who were dispersed from the battle areas. Whole Cimade relief fine witness gospel. Your financing increasing costs is greatly appreciated by French friends. During last nine months there was spent for France 143,000 Swiss francs, and there is in preparation plans for important remittances.

For aid to Protestant non-Aryans and Jews 48,000 francs was sent to Hungarian church committee. The work is organized well and is strongly supported by Reformed Hungarian Lutheran Churches. During late spring protestations saved many thousands of Jews in Budapest. After horrible cruelties until July, Hungarian police are more humane now but material distress is great.

Construction of the home referred to in April cable was started by the Switzerland Refugee Labor Service. For urgent needs for this year subsidies to Swiss refugee committees 88,590 francs; £33,000 for individual refugees.

Financed by Swiss-Swedish con-



tributions the Shanghai Refugee Service is running well. Your two remittances aggregating 40,516 francs were just received. Your cable offering an Italian worker was greatly appreciated. The question will have to be discussed with friends and we shall reply soon.

**CIMADE stands for Comité Inter-Mouvements Aupres des Evacués and is one of the principal French Protestant groups which has been working on behalf of refugees during the last few years. This is the Refugee Committee of the French Youth Organization whose work has been so much encouraged by the French Protestant Church Federation. It is interesting to note that the rough equivalent of \$35,000 has been used in France during the last nine months and commitments have been made for much further work.*

Robinson Moderator "Let's Face Issue" Radio Program

Dr. Leland Rex Robinson, president of ACCR, is the moderator on a new radio panel program which opened Nov. 26, and will be heard each Sunday evening from 5 to 5:30 EWT over WOR (Mutual), for the next thirteen weeks. The program will present panel discussions of topics of current interest and is under the auspices of the American Bar Association. The sponsor is the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway.

Speakers' Bureau

The American Christian Committee for Refugees is in touch with a number of excellent speakers from among the refugee scholars who are available for your programs. Some are listed below. These and others, to fit your needs, may be contacted through ACCR.

SABINE GOVA. Lecturer on history of art and Contemporary French Painting. Has spoken at Metropolitan, Frick, Guggenheim. Presents interesting talk on "French Women from Jeanne d'Arc to Madame Curie."

PETER LEVI SANDI. Young Italian lawyer. Specialist in employer - employee relationships abroad. Broadcast to Italian underground for U. S. government.

REINHOLD SCHAIRER. German-born British subject. With U. S. Committee on Educational Reconstruction of Europe.

FRANZ RAPP. Former Director, Theater Museum, Munich. In concentration camp, Dachau, 1938. Speaks on History of Art and History of the Theater.

FELICIA SALIK. Polish lawyer. Attractive, realistic, student of library science, Columbia.

JULIUS YAVDYSKY. Former Russian diplomatic minister to Japan. Resident China 32 years; director Russian-Asiatic Bank, China. Writer on economics.

GERDA SCHAIRER. Danish-born British subject. With "Women's Council for Post-War Europe."

MARGARET EDELHEIM. German refugee lawyer. Writer and editor on political, economic and women's problems. Now with O.R.T. Economic Bulletin.

OTTO ZOFF. Czechoslovakian
Continue on page 2 col. 4

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Telephone: CAnal 6-5000

LELAND REX ROBINSON
President

AROOS BENNEYAN
Associate Director

ELSIE THOMAS CULVER
Editor

FRANCES PERRY
Associate Editor

Christmas 1944

The star of hope gleams a little brighter this Christmas season. May its brilliance grow till the light of peace and joy enfolds the whole earth. And as we face the new year may our prayer be for the wisdom and tolerance and love in our own hearts that will enable us to translate victory into terms of lasting peace and universal brotherhood.

As NEWSCAST goes to press we receive word that our good friend, Dr. A. L. Warnshuis, foreign counsellor of Church committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction, is now in Geneva, after visiting London and Paris. We eagerly await the word he will bring back concerning needs and conditions. Opportunity for a civilian to make such contacts at the present time is unique.

FINANCES

September and October

Contributions

National War Fund	\$74,930.54
Church Committees	5,724.30
Miscellaneous	442.16
TOTAL	\$81,097.00

"Europe's Uprooted People"

A new, concise, and authoritative pamphlet.

The National Planning Association has just issued the fifth pamphlet in its special series on Relief and Rehabilitation—50 concise pages on "Europe's Uprooted People" (Planning Pamphlet 36, National Planning Association, 800 21st Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.). Other pamphlets in this series have been:

Relief for Europe, December, 1942.

Food for Europe After Victory, January, 1944.

UNRRA: Gateway to Recovery, February, 1944.

Clothing and Shelter for European Relief, May, 1944.

Europe's Uprooted People, to quote the Foreword, "considers the causes, the character, and probable magnitude of dislocation. It analyzes the respective roles to be played by UNRRA, the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, as well as the facilities and responsibilities of other co-operating agencies, such as the I.L.O. It examines the various phases of the over-all problem, including the timing and overlapping of interim and long term measures, possibilities for repatriation, absorption, and group resettlement. It sets forth the economic, political and juridical questions involved; and it proposes both specific and general measures for the solution of international aspects of the problems of displacement and relocation. Because it is impossible in a single pamphlet to do justice to the world-wide problem of uprooted people, this report does not consider the relocation of dislodged people within national frontiers or displaced persons outside Europe."

The work was done by a group of authorities under the direction of Clarence E. Pickett.

Charts seek to make graphic the magnitude of the relocation problem which will face the world when the European war is over. The authors place the number of displaced persons in Europe at "between 20 and 30 million."

"Without a reasonable degree of political security and economic stability, anything approximating complete relocation of displaced persons becomes impossible."

Given this, most will get home in orderly fashion. But perhaps

a million, perhaps more, will be problem cases. Redrawing national boundaries may create new migration problems, and there is grave question whether doctrines against discrimination on political, religious or racial grounds will be practiced as they have been preached.

The tasks of relocation are discussed under the headings, (1) interim measures; (2) repatriation aims and methods; (3) possibilities of absorption in the country of temporary residence; (4) avenues for resettlement elsewhere.

Concerning the role of private agencies in relation to such organizations as UNRRA. The Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, The International Red Cross Committee and The International Labor Organization, the authors say:

"If, today, the possibilities for private agencies are still further limited by the immensity of the tasks, that does not mean that their financial responsibilities are at an end, still less that their services can be dispensed with. . . . (They) have a wealth of knowledge and experience, together with trained personnel. It is not surprising that UNRRA and the I. G. C. are taking active steps to bring these unofficial resources into coordinated relationship with official plans and activities."

Cooperative Channel

By HOMER EDMISTON

A new pamphlet on "Co-operative Organizations and Post-War Relief," published by International Labor Office, Montreal, 1944, suggests how the various relief agencies, both public and private, have ready at hand the co-operative organizations that are found, or were found, in all the European, and in some of the non-European, countries in which these agencies have to work. These world-wide co-operative organizations, which have no doubt been carrying on to a certain extent even in countries controlled by the Germans, will have an experienced personnel and a system that can easily be revived, to put at the disposition of relief agencies.

The publication calls attention to the federal structure of the co-operative movement and to the international federal bodies that are connected with it, these bodies being either of the territorial or specialized type. Of these by far the largest is the International

Co-operative Alliance, which was founded so far back as 1895, and which at the outbreak of the present war comprised 171,300 societies, with 7,158,000 members, in 35 countries.

One of the first reconstruction problems will be the revival of education. An impressive statement of co-operative educational methods is given on pages 23 to 34 of this pamphlet. Under such titles as "The Co-operative Press, books, meetings, broadcasts, films, classes in schools, etc.," it is shown how widespread and effective this educational movement has been.

Part II of the pamphlet is entitled "Co-operative Organizations Throughout the World." Under this general heading there are such sub-headings as "Urban Co-operative Organizations," which include consumers' co-operative societies, co-operative banks, co-operative insurance societies, and the like. Another sub-heading is "Rural Co-operative Organizations," which comprises rural credit co-operative societies, specialized marketing co-operative societies, rural supply co-operative societies, etc. There is hardly an agricultural product that does not come within the scope of these rural co-operatives.

Part III is entitled "Co-operative Organizations in Relief Operations." The general qualifications of co-operative institutions for relief are set forth, and an account is given of relief programs and of ways in which co-operative organizations can be useful to them. It is asserted, for example, that "the co-operative organizations can rely on the experience of tens of thousands of employees and workers, trained for special service, and a great number of democratically elected functionaries, who have close contacts with the masses of consumers, as well as experts in all fields connected with the production and distribution of consumers' goods."

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Continued from page 1 col. 4

writer. Author of "The Huguenots" and "They shall Inherit the Earth."

LILI GONDA ACZEL, Hungarian born; reared in France. Teacher at French Legation in Budapest. Educator and author.

RICHARD M. HONIG, Scholar, educator. Six years, Univ. of Istanbul. Speaks with authority on Church History and the New Turkey.

This first letter from our "over-seas staff," written by Camille Killian whose picture you saw in the last issue of *NEWSCAST*, gives such an interesting and intimate picture of the El Shatt camp, that we felt sure our readers would like to read it in full.

Dear Miss Bennehan:

At long last I am settling down to a long letter to you. A large factor in the delay has been my wish to digest and get the feel of some of the experience in a real refugee camp before passing on impressions to you all. The impressions as of to date no doubt will change for I have been here only two weeks.

I am stationed at Camp 2 in El Shatt, which latter I believe you know is the Yugoslav camp. El Shatt consists of 3 camps and camp headquarters. The largest concentration of personnel is in Headquarters and Camp 1. Personnel from Camp 3 largely lives in Headquarters. Personnel in Camp 2 is a small group—at the moment I am the only woman—but because of that—i. e. the small group—it is considered by many as the most desirable camp in which to work.

Population 21,000

The three El Shatt camps have a total refugee population of 21,000. Camp 2 has a population of 7,500. Near El Shatt is Moses Wells Camp, the Greek camp, but I do not know the population there. In Camp 2 we have largely people from the Dalmatian Coast and the Islands. Rumor hath it that some of these people, especially the Islanders, have transferred some of their cultural patterns in somewhat poor household standards to the refugee camp. The refugees and some of the staff live in tents. The refugees, around 15 in a tent—generally from the same village or community, but frequently they had not known each other before their refugee experience. Living in such close proximity puts a strain on human beings hard for us to comprehend. My hat goes off daily to these courageous people, some of whom have suffered so much—despite which they maintain a courage and will to come back and rebuild which is humbling.

Largely Children

The other day I had my first death—a child of 5. The mother, still a young woman, lost her husband in the fighting in Yugoslavia. She has 3 other children. I'm afraid I took it harder than she did. The courage of these mothers



The camp for Yugoslav refugees in El Shatt, Egypt.—United Yugoslav Relief.

—and the love of these people for their children! A large percentage of the camp population of course is made up of children for they were the ones—together with the aged—who were saved. In our own camp we have 185 technical orphans—i. e. they are without parents here and many of them are known to be without parents anywhere, and probably many more will be real orphans by the time they return. The adults in the tent, very often people from their village, look after them. One of my first jobs here was to try to get something like an accurate social history on these orphans—who they were, where their parents were, what plans for the future. I discontinued this because plans were afoot to move a large part of the child population to another camp, Talembutt, a healthier finer spot near the sea. I was very much disappointed because I feel these orphans are so important and I did want to do a helping job with them.

More Expected

The tents are arranged in blocks—A B C D E—the blocks varying

in size dependent on the size of the flight of refugees. The first may be 1,000, then 2,000, and 3,000. Rumor hath it we are to expect another flight which will be divided among the camps. We will be losing about 500 from Camp 2—children under 5 who for health reasons will be moved to Talembutt. In this group will be my pet orphans—real ones. Parents are dead. The oldest is a girl, Anka, 14—the sweetest, most cheerful child you want to meet, who mothers the rest of the brood, 4 in all. She is being helped in the mothering process by the adults in the tent, people of high standards. The baby, only 1½ years old, now after 7 or 8 months in a refugee camp, is adorable and, as one of the tent adults said "everyone is a mother to him." The early sights of the children must have been terrible—and so many died. Just from curiosity I checked the statistics on births, deaths and marriages in this camp the other day. The deaths were almost 3 to 1 birth, and only 6 marriages; with the camp made up largely of



Education goes on. Youngsters attend classes out of doors.

—United Yugoslav Relief.

mothers and children, the Yugoslavs are going to have to do something about an increase in population. As we see them now, they are a happy lot, these people. They sing and dance beautifully. One of the work projects is the theater: drama, singing and dancing. Someone said yesterday that they had never been accustomed to singing in chorus before. Without accompaniment they produce harmony which would be the envy of some a cappella choirs I've heard. Of course most of it is partisan songs as one would expect. The peasant dancing I love, especially the children. Such graceful little things. There is a concert tonight again!

"Like Times Square"

Sunset is lovely here. The camp has for background the Suez Canal and the Ateka Mountains. Some day I hope to climb the latter. The desert, as you have heard told, is apt to become a bit hot. Our working hours are from 8 to 12 and 4 to 7. After lunch everyone sleeps if they are wise. One day I decided stuff and nonsense to this sleeping business and went over at 2—result nice headache. About 5:30 or 6:00 it begins to cool off—the children come out to play and one of my memories will be the happy voices of these children set against the background of the camp tents and the sun setting behind Ateka. In the evening they mill up and down the road—like Times Square. One can learn to become very fond of the desert, especially at night when it is cool and the sky heavenly. The only difficulty being that a female cannot safely wander around the desert alone at night. Even the deadly monotony of the sand begins to take on character when the sun begins to cast a pinkness over it.

Making Camp Homey

A project under the tender care of Henry Russel who was in Maryland with us is to get green things growing—a much needed color contrast to the sand and tents. Henry is exploring with Nile mud and whatever seeds we can scrouge. The ingenious Yugoslavs, before the advent of Henry, started gardens and here and there one sees green spots around the tents. Some of the interiors of the tents are amazing—immaculate with bits of ornaments they have fashioned out of nothing, to make the place homey. Some of them have even devised bedspreads. Eating is supposed to be done in large block kitchens, but sometimes they do bring food

into the tents from the kitchen. As a private enterprise the head of welfare in Camp 2, a Menonite, and I—the only Americans in our mess—(we are under the command of the British army but actually our commanding officer is a South African) are planning to glorify the mess and living room. A bit of color at the windows, some plants in the windows, and maybe we can get the camp artist—a Yugoslav—to give up painting the babies' ward in the hospital long enough to paint our three pets over the fireplace—our pets being 2 stray cats and one stray dog. Our commanding officer has a weak spot for creatures on four legs—even the camels have learned about him and come to the kitchen to be watered. You should see the baby camels—such pathetic creatures. The Arabs are extremely neglectful of their animals as they are of their cleanliness—never have I seen such dirt and poverty.

The Job to be Done

Yesterday, after two weeks, I finally managed to get some idea of what my function is to be:

1. What amounts to a kind of casework service and follow-up on referrals from the doctors, child welfare, tents, etc.

2. Exploration and a beginning in development and training of personnel for this kind of service within the Yugoslav group.

The Army, who set up these camps, have done a beautiful job; the Yugoslavs, who as I understand it have largely set up the

camp program, have done a remarkable job. There are training schools for nurses and hygienists, dressmakers, toy shop for women. For the men there are a carpenter shop, a tin shop, a forge, a shoe-maker shop, a soap factory. The crying need and please cry this throughout the land, is for supplies. If there were more supplies they could make more things, have more tent space for the training of more people, and thus be training more to take over when they get to Yugoslavia. I asked them how they thought we could be helpful—"give us supplies, we can do the rest." And apparently this goes for when they get to Yugoslavia too. A proud, independent people, which is why they are alive and holding such great hopes for the future of their country. I like them more each day and hope they will learn to like me. I do so want this thing to be a success. I am keeping my eyes open for special jobs we could be doing some time in the future.

Post-UNRRA Plans

Before I left Cairo Mr. Barclay Jones, Chairman of the Friends here, and serving on the Council of Voluntary Agencies in Cairo, asked me to represent ACCR at a meeting to discuss what the voluntary agency role could be. Specific questions were asked: (1) How does our agency feel about its members becoming a part of a British Team (the British came out equipped as teams, the objective being that they could be entirely independent units in the

field if necessary, i. e. a cook, a driver, a mechanic, welfare worker, etc., up to 9 or 10 personnel) (2) Can we take on specific jobs, and (3) Do we have post-UNRRA plans in relation to work with the Refugees. These were my answers, and I hope I did not miss fire. (1) We have been loaned to UNRRA to be used as UNRRA considers best—if this is working on teams O.K. *The agency's primary concern is that the skills on which basis we were selected shall be utilized as much as possible.* (2) We can, if as we go along and see a job that needs doing but which UNRRA cannot do, suggest to our agency the doing of it and they can choose to take it on. (This thinking I got from Miss Gates in Maryland. I hope I got her straight.) (3) Definitely ACCR does have a post-UNRRA plan and really plans to do its real functional job then.

This letter is much scattered. Working in the mess means one swelters and has to contend with flies. To write in the mess means one is constantly interrupted. I hope you get some feeling about the work. This morning (this letter was started yesterday) I had a good conference with the welfare officer and the Camp Commandant. They say you have to find your job here.

Convoy Days

And now for just a bit about our going over. We left Maryland on July 20th as you know and after a week in an embarka-

tion camp set sail in convoy. What an experience! Our much needed rest was secured in the 16 convoy days. I fell in love with the ocean and wished I were a man so I could join the Navy and never leave the sea. Then a week in Naples, where, of course, we were never supposed to be. We could still be there if we hadn't scurried about ourselves regarding the need to get on to a job. Our one grief came to us in Naples where we lost all the baggage we had put in the ships hold, with the promise it would be delivered to our hotels. I have been living out of a knapsack plus a few ruinous priced articles purchased in Cairo. Today I learned the Egyptian government is holding 50 pieces of baggage "for a ransom." Maybe it will be cheaper to let them keep it!

Naples and Cairo

From Naples where we saw sights, opera, poverty, dirt and much beauty, we flew to Cairo. Only a day in Cairo and then to our orientation camp in the desert near Cairo. Have had a few opportunities to get into Cairo and will improve on them before I leave these parts. It's a fascinating city—wealth, poverty, unspeakable dirt—beautiful. Nile at sunset and moonlight and the Pyramids. We are living hard—improving on the great American custom of working hard and playing hard.

My greetings to you all.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Camille Killian

THIS IS YOUR COPY
OF THE

Newscast

from the

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES, Inc.

139 Centre Street, New York 13, N. Y.

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UNRRA

Form No. AD-2

(20 June 1944)

ROUTE SLIP

Date

1/6/45

To

Mr Brown
Camps Div, Areas
Room No. 319

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From

Room No.

REPORT TO THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1944

Those of us who arrived at the El Shatt Camps in October have now passed through the somewhat painful orientation process and have a full month of working experience behind us.

During the month I was definitely assigned to Major Edwards' office in Camp 1 Headquarters and became his "construction engineer". Although the assignment was a most congenial one I have been troubled from the start by the fact that I am responsible for certain projects over which I have no real control or authority. In order to function constructively and happily it was first necessary to understand and to accept the British-military-Yugoslav-committee operational set-up. This took both restraint and patience.

The soap factory (Ivonica sapuna) was started and by the end of the month the brick walls were almost completed. Present indications are that the necessary timber and corrugated iron for the roof and the caustic soda and other raw materials for the manufacture of the soap will be difficult to secure. Another part of my monthly assignment was to make a scale drawing of the camp headquarters area in order to study fire hazards and inefficiencies in the present layout. Follow-up work was done on district recreation centers, abandoned latrines, bath house, and refugee canteen. Marion Sloan and Sam Yoder, my welfare associates in Camp 1, specialized in school equipment, clothing distribution, tent inspection, and consultation with refugees regarding emigration, money remittances, and the location of relatives.

Another more difficult lesson, which apparently all relief workers have to learn, was that provision of food, shelter, clothing, and work is only the beginning of foreign service. The ministering to the souls of these sturdy and courageous people is a much more difficult and precious undertaking. It is indeed humbling to feel that thus far one has received more spiritual enrichment than one has been able to give. Too often one feels powerless to help in the tragic situations which are to be found on all sides. Nor is it always the worst calamities which hurt the most. Loss of family or home or health are common to almost all, but when Vasijsa, our own office interpreter, loses her little gold cross in the sand or is shivering because she is too sensitive to ask for the clothes or blanket to which she is entitled, one feels the full force of the refugees' tragic situation.

I was also painfully conscious during the month of the differences between the refugees' privileges and ours. We shared in common certain entertainments at the NAAFI building and cinema pictures, but our own greater freedom allowed us a weekend climb up Ataka Mountain, trips to Cairo or Suez, and an American celebration of Thanksgiving on the 30th in the Officers' mess. All of these occasions helped to make the four weeks of November pass quickly and happily. Furthermore, in order to help bridge the language gap, several of us secured the help of a Yugoslav teacher and plunged into daily Hrvatski lessons.

As a further aid in meeting our daily problems we eight representatives of the AFSC continued to hold our Sunday morning gatherings on the sand, and we were usually joined by our Mennonite and Baptist associates. Our ability to consult and to joke together about mail irregularities, P.X. privileges, separation allowances, and other "frustrations" was also a conscious aid to our morale.

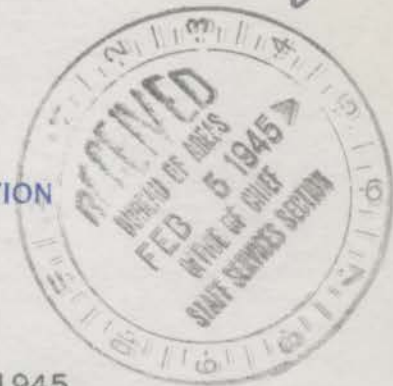
As a result of the month's experiences I am forced to admit to a feeling of ineffectiveness about the particular work which I am doing, but the life at El Shatt is undoubtedly good training for more strenuous times ahead and I am perfectly willing and even anxious to continue unless more pressing needs call for my services elsewhere.

Edward N. Wright
December 9, 1944

File

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

1344 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OK RLB

3 February 1945

To: Richard R. Brown

From: Robert L. Brown *RLB*

Yesterday Mr. Louis Birk called on me after Morse Salisbury had talked to me on the phone outlining plans under way to bring the Yugoslav Choir from our El Shatt camp in Egypt to America for a concert tour.

The choir consists of some ninety persons, both men and women, and was organized and is directed by Jospi Hatze, who is Yugoslavia's No. One musician and composer. Mr. Birk stated that General Giles, United States Army Commander in Cairo, had promised free passage from Cairo to New York and return to Cairo for the choir and that the United Yugoslav Relief in New York had guaranteed to defray any necessary expenses incurred in the United States. The purpose of the tour would be to weld closer relationships and create sympathetic understanding of the Yugoslavs with the American public. It is my understanding, and I may be wrong in this, that the National Party of Liberation will sponsor the tour. This may translate itself into the United Yugoslav Relief sponsoring the tour.

At any rate, Mr. Birk is going to New York Monday or Tuesday where he is to meet with Louis Adamic, the author, who is the chairman of the New York Yugoslav group, to round out details of the tour. He will also see the William Morris Agency (largest theatrical agency in the United States); he is a personal friend of Mr. Morris. Incidentally, Jerry Morris, formerly of your office, is the ex-Mrs. William Morris. Mr. Birk is of the opinion, as am I, that the William Morris Agency will handle the commercial booking for the choir. He has asked if it will be possible for me to pick up the strings of this program when he leaves to go back to Cairo and to do whatever seems necessary on our part to welcome the choir, to see they are in good hands, and to see, in collaboration with Mr. Salisbury, that the proper publicity and public relations are obtained for UNRRA. UNRRA public relations will be secondary, but it is contemplated that all advertising and publicity will state that the choir was organized in the El Shatt Camp operated by UNRRA, and the other incidental stories, of course, will take their lead from this standard announcement.

5 February 1945

Part of the plan which has been discussed in Cairo, and which is as yet unsettled, is that if hostilities are over by the time the choir arrives, they would be booked across the United States and from there be sponsored by either the Yugoslav or the Russian Government, going from San Francisco to a port in Siberia, then sent to Russia, making their "triumphant entry" back into Yugoslavia through Russian territory.

The plan is very exciting, I think you will admit, and has tremendous possibilities not only for international good will and understanding, but as a vehicle to point up UNRRA's part in the handling of refugees.

I would certainly like to be a part of it from this side and feel that my responsibilities would be slight, mainly connected with a trip or so to New York to see that arrangements were being well handled. As you know, I have had some ten years experience in the show business and I would welcome an opportunity to step back into it, even though temporarily, as an aid to letting the world know more about UNRRA.

UNRRA
Form No. AD-2
(20 June 1944)

ROUTE SLIP

Date 26/2

To

Robert Brown

Room No. 319 307

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Approval | REMARKS |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Per telephone conversation | |

From

K. S. Louchheim

DPI

Room No. 1018

News Bulletin

UNITED **YUGOSLAV** RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA

Sponsored by **AMERICAN FRIENDS OF YUGOSLAVIA, INC.**

PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD REGISTRATION NO. 470

11 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

☎

Plaza 3-7291

Vol. 4

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1945

No. 1

United National Clothing Collection Campaign, First Project of Its Kind, to Start April 1, With 150,000,000 lbs. of Clothing as Goal

In a combined effort to secure the maximum possible quantity of good used clothing for free distribution to the destitute people of war devastated countries, the United National Clothing Collection Campaign has been organized.

Scheduled for April 1-30, with 150,000,000 lbs. of clothing as its goal, the drive will be conducted under the sponsorship of a national committee headed by Henry J. Kaiser, who has been appointed National Chairman by President Roosevelt. The national committee will consist of representatives from the United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America, many other voluntary war relief agencies and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, as well as representatives from national civic, industrial, labor, church and other organizations.

The campaign, similar in scope to the National War Fund, will reach every community, large and small, in the United States.

"Spearhead committees," composed of presidents of three local service groups—Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions—will invite representatives of all groups—war relief agencies, industrial, labor, agricultural, religious, educational and civic—to name local committees and chairmen for the drive.

All clothing received during the United Campaign will be shipped from local committees to specified regional warehouses, freight charges collect, and will go into a common pool. The garments will then be sent abroad to the war devastated countries on the basis of the greatest immediate need and available shipping space, and will be distributed to the needy without discrimination.

As the United Collection provides the best possible method of securing used clothing in maximum quantity for Yugoslavia, the United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America appeals to all its committees, cooperating groups and friends to give their complete and wholehearted support to this great humanitarian cause.

Although the campaign is scheduled for April, the UYRF, in order to extend its full cooperation to the campaign, has agreed that all clothing it receives from March first until a date to be set by the United National Clothing Collection Committee will be considered a part of the campaign proceeds. Until March 1st, however, the Fund will continue its normal collection in the usual manner.

So substantial has been the amount of clothing received by the U. Y. R. F. during the past several months, that it was necessary to secure a new and more spacious warehouse. Located at 877 Broadway, near 18th Street, the new warehouse can be reached easily by subway or bus from all parts of New York. With an area of approximately 13,000 sq.

ft.—5,000 sq. ft. more than the former warehouse—it consists of a street floor with a mezzanine in the rear, and a very large basement.

There is every reason to believe that the new quarters will be designated as a general depot for the National Clothing Collection Campaign, as it has ample space to receive large quantities of clothing, and the personnel and equipment to sort and bale the garments.

— 0 —

PARCELS FOR YUGOSLAV WAR PRISONERS



One of the volunteer activities at the Fund's new warehouse in New York.

Volunteers, under the leadership of Mme. Ivan Soubotitch and Mrs. Frano Petrinovic, packing 6,500 parcels for hospitalized Yugoslav prisoners of war with supplies purchased by the Fund. Each parcel contains: 1 sleeping garment; 2 hand towels; 1 bath towel; 2 cakes of laundry soap; 1 pair of bedroom slippers; 1 sewing kit; 1 game; 1 indelible pencil; 1 writing pad; 1 package of Visyneral Vitamins; 1 handkerchief; 1 tooth brush; 1 package of tooth powder and 1 comb.

While the packing was in progress, over fifty War Chest representatives, who were in New York attending the annual conference of the National War Fund, visited the warehouse. They were taken on a tour of the quarters and were shown how the collected clothing is sorted and baled. The visitors expressed admiration at the efficiency with which the warehouse is being operated and said they were glad to have first hand knowledge of these activities of the UYRF.

Introducing: Five New Members of Fund's Board of Directors



Dorsey Richardson



Dr. George Baehr



Harold F. Sheets

Dr. George Baehr is Chief of the First Medical Service and Director of Clinical Research at the Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Columbia University. During World War I, he served in the Balkans and in Russia as a member of the American Red Cross Sanitary Commission, and was a member of the Typhus Commission which went to Serbia in 1915.

George MacDonald is chairman of the board of Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and director of Richfield Oil Corporation, Petroleum Corporation of America, Foundation Corporation, Sinclair Oil Corporation and Cities Service Corporation. He is actively interested in numerous philanthropic and welfare organizations.

Dorsey Richardson is vice-chairman of Lehman Corporation, well-known investment firm. In 1919, he was administrator of American Relief for Latvia and Lithuania. Mr. Richardson was associated with the State Department for a number of years and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Edgar Rickard is chairman of the Board of the Pejepscot Paper Company, the Hazeltine Corporation and the Hazeltine Electronics Corporation. He was associated with Herbert Hoover in numerous relief projects, including the Commission for Relief in Belgium. He is president of the American Children's Fund and of the Finnish Relief Fund.

Harold F. Sheets is chairman of the board of the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc. From 1920-1924, while living in Paris, he was chairman of the executive committee of the American Hospital in Paris and director of the American Relief Fund of that city, thus acquiring an intimate knowledge of relief problems.

SPECIAL PROJECT FINANCED BY UYRF THROUGH UNRRA

National Headquarters is glad to announce that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) has accepted \$57,000 from the UYRF to provide greatly needed educational, recreational and vocational items for approximately 40,000 Yugoslav refugees in the Middle East and Italy. These materials cannot be supplied by UNRRA under its own budget. A part of the sum will be used to purchase motion picture projectors, electric generators, screens and a traveling film library. Instructional and vocational films will be made available as well as "movies" for entertainment. Films concerning disease control and personal hygiene will be included.

Refugee Life in El Shatt, Egypt Told by Overseas Staff Worker

Describing the conditions under which the Yugoslav refugees live at camp El Shatt, Camille Killian, staff member of the American Christian Committee for Refugees, in her first report to that organization writes on the courage of these refugees in meeting many hardships, and appeals for supplies to help "a proud, independent people, which is why they are alive and hold such great hope for the future of their country."

Excerpts from Miss Killian's letter, which appeared in the November-December issue of "Newscast," official organ of the American Christian Committee for Refugees, follow:

"I am stationed at Camp 2 in El Shatt, which latter I believe you know is the Yugoslav camp. El Shatt consists of three camps and camp headquarters. The three camps have a total refugee population of 21,000. Camp 2 has a population of 7,500. In Camp 2 we have largely people from the Dalmatian Coast and the Islands. Rumor has it that some of these people, especially the Islanders, have transferred some of their cultural patterns in somewhat poor household standards to the refugee camp. The refugees and some of the staff live in tents. The refugees, around fifteen in a tent—generally from the same village or community, but frequently, they had not known each other before their refugee experience. Living in such close proximity puts a strain on human beings hard for us to comprehend. My hat goes off daily to these courageous people, some of whom have suffered so much—despite which they maintain a courage and will to come back and rebuild.

Largely Children

"The other day I had my first death—a child of 5. The mother, still a young woman, lost her husband in the fighting in Yugoslavia. She has three other children. I'm afraid I took it harder than she did. The courage of these mothers—and the love of these people for their children! A large percentage of the camp population of course is made up of children, for they were the ones—together with the aged—who were saved. In our own camp we have 185 technical orphans—i. e., they are without parents here and many of them are known to be without parents anywhere, and probably many more will be real orphans by the time they return. The adults in the tent, very often people from their village, look after them.

Vital Statistics

"The tents are arranged in blocks—A B C D—the blocks varying in size dependent on the size of the flight of refugees. The first may be 1,000 then 2,000, and 3,000. Rumor has it we are to expect another flight which will be divided among the camps. We will be losing about 500 from Camp 2—children under five who for health reasons will be moved to Talembutt (a healthier and finer spot near the sea). In this group will be my pet orphans—real ones. Parents are dead. The oldest is a girl, Anka, 14—the sweetest, most cheerful child you want to meet, who mothers the rest of the brood, four in all. She is being helped in the mothering process by the adults in the tent, people of high standards. The baby, only 1½ years old, now after seven or eight months in a refugee camp, is adorable and as one of the adults said, 'everyone is a mother to him.' The early sights of the children must have been terrible—and so many died. Just from curiosity I checked the statistics on births, deaths and marriages in this camp the other day. The deaths were almost 3 to 1 birth, and only six marriages; with the camp made up largely of mothers and children, the Yugoslavs are going to have to do something about an increase in population.

Need For Supplies

"The Army, who set up these camps, has done a beautiful job. The Yugoslavs, who as I understand it have largely set up the camp program, have done a remarkable job. There are training schools for nurses and hygienists, dressmakers, toy shop for women. For the men there are a carpenter shop, a tin shop, a forge, a shoemaker shop, a soap factory. The crying need, and please cry this throughout the land, is for supplies. If there were more supplies they could make more things, have more tent space for the training of more people, and thus be training more to take over when they get to Yugoslavia. I asked them how they thought we could be helpful—'give us supplies, we can do the rest.' And apparently this goes for when they get to Yugoslavia too. A proud, independent people, which is why they are alive and holding such great hopes for the future of their country."

Boston Committee Hard at Work

The Fund's Boston Committee, one of its best functioning units, has added another relief project to its many activities. Morton P. Prince, chairman, has informed National Headquarters that sewing circles are now being formed to prepare garments for Yugoslav children. The groups will be under the supervision of Mrs. Charles O. Pengra, a member of the executive committee.

Meanwhile, the clothing collection, the educational program and other activities are being conducted as effectively as ever. Under the energetic leadership of Mrs. Somers Fraser, chairman of the clothing campaign, every effort is being made to obtain as many serviceable garments as possible. In this connection, the Christian Science War Relief Committee, which a few months ago donated 3,500 lbs. of good used clothing to the Fund's Boston Committee, has requested its New York branch to send 25 cases of clothing, consisting of 3,184 lbs. of miscellaneous garments and shoes, to the UYRF's warehouse in New York.

Lectures on Yugoslavia have been arranged to take place at the Unitarian Church Forum in Whitman and at the Massachusetts Women's Club in Deerfield. The Fund was represented at a United Nations benefit recently held at Radcliffe College. The Yugoslav flag, posters, and pictures were on display and articles from the committee's shop were sold.

Escaped Yugoslav War Prisoners Received Supplies from UYRF

From somewhere in France, an American Pfc. wrote his mother in Hawthorne, N. J., that he had met escaped Yugoslav prisoners of war who told him that they had received parcels from the United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America. The letter follows:

"The other day, I came across a number of Yugoslavs. They had been taken here by the Germans to work, but later escaped. I talked with a lot of them. They were all farmers and one was a baker. They were swell. Of course, I had to talk to them with a little caution, but I am now positive that they were good fellows. I showed them the pictures I always carry with me and they enjoyed them very much. They said that they had received packages from the United Yugoslav Relief in America."

"Contribute to the Yugoslavs . . . They Have Seen Hell"

A contribution of \$550 has just been made to the Fund from a Piqua, Ohio, business man, at the request of his son, an American lieutenant, navigator on a B-24. While flying over Austria, the plane was badly hit by the enemy, forcing the crew to bail out. They landed near the German lines in Yugoslavia. Fortunately, they were rescued by Yugoslav fighters who later helped them to escape. The entire crew is now back at their base in Italy. Moved by the kindness and hospitality shown by the Yugoslav fighters, the lieutenant wrote his father, "If you ever get a chance to contribute to the Yugoslavs, do it. They have seen hell, and they saved my life."

A. F. of L. and C. I. O. Unions Allocate Funds to the UYRF

The United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America has been privileged to be included among the agencies which have received an allocation from funds raised for war relief by members of A. F. of L. and C.I.O. unions.

As reported to the National War Fund, donations of \$1,000.00 each were made by the Hotel and Club Employees Union, Local 6, A. F. of L., and the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers of America, District Council No. 9, A. F. of L. The National Maritime Union of America, C. I. O., and the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, Local 16, A. F. of L., also made substantial contributions.

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

The United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America is a non-denominational and non-political organization. Its purpose is to help all suffering Yugoslavs, through authorized channels, whenever or wherever they can be reached, without regard to their religious, racial, or political background.



Members of the Junior Guild of the Church of The Heavenly Rest who have volunteered to sew layette garments for the UYRF. Standing, left to right, the ladies are: Mrs. Clement B. Masson, Mrs. Brooks Palmer, Mrs. Jeffrey Granger, Mrs. Lee Limbert, Mrs. John McGrath, Mrs. George Scarlett, Mrs. Max Pollock; Seated: Mrs. Renville H. McMann, Mrs. Gladys Taylor, Mrs. Southall Graham, Mrs. Maxwell Scott, chairman, Mrs. Sprague Carleton, Mrs. Robert Schleussner, Mrs. John Caffrey, Mrs. Ellis Finch, Miss Marion Iler, and Mrs. Amelia Reuter. The Rev. Henry Darlington, D. D., is Rector of the Church.

TO KEEP YUGOSLAV CHILDREN WARM



Members of Local 10 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, A. F. of L., employed by the Weiner Blouse Company of New York, cutting material for garments for Yugoslav children. Left to right the cutters are: Dave Schwartz, Samuel Fink and Harry Kirschner.

Mr. Albert Weiner

An ardent friend of Yugoslavia, Albert Weiner, owner of the Weiner Blouse Company of New York, has been giving exceptional support to the Fund. On three different occasions, he made available the facilities of his plant where 11,427 yards of material were cut for approximately 9,000 garments—girls' dresses and boys' shorts for Yugoslav children.



The American Red Cross, through whose facilities the Fund provides medical supplies for the people of Yugoslavia, has donated 100,000 cellulose surgical dressings to the UYRF. National Headquarters deeply appreciates this gift, which will reduce the estimated cost of the Fund's current medical program by approximately \$5,000.00.



Report From the Field Director

(Flavel Barnes completes first field trip)

Active Committees Formed—Conference With Fund's Columbus chairman—Interview with Ohio Governor—Ground Work for Cleveland Committee.

In Indianapolis, Mrs. Donovan Turk, well-known as a lecturer to civic groups, has accepted the chairmanship of the committee and is already planning to conduct a clothing collection and to organize sewing groups.

In Detroit, R. Bliss Wolfe of the Hannan Real Estate Exchange is the new chairman of the committee and is using his organizing skill to build a strong group in that war-conscious city. Mr. Wolfe succeeds Wendell Goddard, the former chairman.

In Columbus, Miss Barnes conferred with N. J. Barack, chairman of the Fund's committee. Mr. Barack has the enviable record of having delivered lectures on Yugoslavia before forty-seven organizations. He talked not only in Columbus, but also in other cities throughout Ohio. His committee is actively cooperating with the Ohio Division of the National War Fund and the War Chest of Franklin County. Mr. Barack is City Recreation Director.

While in Columbus, Miss Barnes had an interview with Governor Frank L. Lausche of Ohio. Governor Lausche is a first generation American of Yugoslav descent and is very much interested in the UYRF's organization in that city. He told Miss Barnes that he approved heartily the Fund's policy in extending relief to destitute Yugoslavs without regard to their religious, racial or political background.

In Cleveland, officials of the War Chest and many other people of prominence agreed with Governor Lausche, former Mayor of Cleveland, that a UYRF committee should be organized soon in their city, which has one of the largest Yugoslav populations in the country.

State and City War Chests gave Miss Barnes able assistance and splendid cooperation throughout her field trip. Ohio, Indiana and Michigan are very much concerned with foreign relief problems and feel that strong committees of National War Fund agencies are of direct benefit to their program of activities.

UNITED YUGOSLAV RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA

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His interpreter should be most carefully chosen and if possible should be someone outside the camp, since political questions may presume to figure among the confidences he will hear.

b) Canteens

Someone welfare officer should be designated chiefly responsible for establishing the canteen. He should consult with MERRA as to latter's policy re pocket money. And similarly with the Central Committee. Storekeepers could be chosen from among refugees in the camp who would be assistants to the welfare officer temporarily in charge. Details should be worked out with Captain Skidmore of Moses Wells. Tee H or YMCA canteen operators would be helpful with advice. It is important to set up a canteen at once.

c) Sports

Find competent leaders from among the refugees, also their endorsement for a sports committee. Welfare man would have close connection with the committee and with camp authorities. Equipment would be necessary.

d) Education

Much the same procedure appropriate, although because of probably political nature of much of the education desired by the Committees, the point at which the initiative of the welfare officer stopped and the committee carried on would have to be clearly defined.

e) Occupational

This would be a two fold responsibility -

- a) working closely with the employment officer in recruiting casual labor, and working out with him
- b) other types of work activities which would be useful to the camp in the longer run, - e.g. construction of fly traps, tables, shelves for the tents, etc.

f) Infants' Center

Mrs. Small of Save the Children's Fund will suggest her own plans, and the welfare officer and MERRA should give her full support.

Throughout, the welfare officer should try to do several things, --

- a) Be a person to whom the refugees know they can go for a sympathetic hearing, in confidence; a person with whom they can freely discuss problems; a person who will seek for solutions of detailed, human, individual problems.
- b) Be on intimate terms with various Committees and endeavor to stimulate them to develop the kind of welfare program which seems essential.

XC

Howard Wriggins, writing from Cairo Feb. 20, said the following notes on welfare work at El Shatt Refugee Camp, had been submitted by him to MEMRA. (See his letter MEMRA 22)

Welfare Work at El Shatt Refugee Camp

1. The welfare work at the two camps is at present inadequate for two main reasons, -
 - a) The present staff is fully occupied with the detail registration.
 - b) Staff now assigned to the welfare work is inadequate in terms of numbers and in camp 1, in terms of quality.
2. A fairly clear program should be defined and energetically pursued. It should comprise the following elements to begin with -
 - a) Information office; enquiries, a citizens advice bureau, with a specially appointed member of the camp staff present at fixed hours.
 - b) Canteen with either money or camp currency for the purchase of comforts ---cigarettes, soap, razor blades, candy, pencils, paper, stamps, etc.
 - c) Sports for adolescents too young to work.
 - d) Educational activities for those of school age.
 - e) Occupational activities -- carpentry, sewing groups, etc., with liaison between the welfare office and the officer in charge of camp labor.
 - f) Infant care center in collaboration with the camp medical officer.

Other projects could be undertaken subsequently as the need for them became apparent.

3. Procedure suggested. -

a) Information Office

One man should be assigned to the welfare office with the special responsibility of information service. He should survey the camp to find out exactly what does go on and what is the responsibility of each of the officers and committees. He should be able to sit in on the central administrative meetings in order to understand the administration's point of view of questions of larger policy. After he knows what is happening in the camp, he should explain his plan to the Central Committee and the Camp Committee, obtain their backing and cooperation, and set up an office with his regular hours of attendance advertised through the camp paper and by the Committees.

- c) Help them wherever necessary, even on the very lowest administration level. While clear and absolute definition of responsibility and authority is not appropriate when dealing with such a civilian community, the welfare officer should not leave the committee completely alone but should constantly and tactfully encourage and suggest the importance of everyone working together.
- d) See that the details of specific programs are carried through. There are few new ideas in any welfare program. The essential is that some one or several persons have the responsibility and the interest to see the need for some specific project and that they should be in a position to stick with the project until it is well established and running, through all the difficult and small details which will require attention.

PERSONNEL

Each camp should have at least 2 welfare workers, probably 3. One to take a specific project. One to be in charge of counselling and the liaison between committees and camp authorities. Wherever possible, advice of experienced people, like the ARC welfare workers, should be sought.

N.B. These notes are not meant to criticize the work now being done. They are simply one man's impressions after a week spent in the camp and the suggestions which seem to follow from the impression gathered.

10 May 1944

EL SHATT CAMP

LOCATION: In the desert, on the eastern side of the Suez Canal opposite the town of Suez; 100 miles east of Cairo; 10 miles from Moses Wells, Suez, Egypt.

TYPE OF CAMP AND BRIEF HISTORY: Was established under MERRA early in 1944 as a semi-permanent refugee camp to accommodate the Yugoslavs evacuated to Egypt through Italy.

POPULATION: The refugees are Yugoslavs, predominantly Croat and Roman Catholic, mainly from islands off Split, and also the Dalmatian coastal strip. As of February 18, 1944, the total population was 11,261, (3,373 men, 4,637 women, and 3,251 children). In April 1944, there was a total population of 10,920, (2,750 men, 4,073 women, and 4,097 children). According to latest figures of April 30, 1944, there are expected to be 20,000 to 25,000 refugees in May-June, 1944 and 30,000 during the period July-September, 1944.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES: Each refugee is registered on arrival, though some are registered on shipboard en route. MERRA identity documents are used.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAMP: The site is large and located in the desert (soft sand) approximately 10 miles from Moses Wells, Suez. The conditions are very primitive. Wind and sandstorms are frequent. There are three sub-camps.

At the time of our report the camp was being constructed and equipped. With the exception of three or four brick buildings, one of which was being used for the hospital, all refugees were in tents. Privies were in use. A new hospital to accommodate 200-300 patients is at present under construction. This will do away with the necessity of using tents for isolation purposes. At present, cases needing special treatment are sent to the 13th General Hospital.

Staff quarters consist of tents with burlap "floors," cots with rope springs, and mattresses on top. The only furniture is a wash-bowl on stand; valises serve as bureaus, shelves, etc. One privy exists for the staff. Washing is done in individual basins from water obtained from women's compound.

ADMINISTRATION: Camp is under the administration of MERRA, and is operated and supplied by the British Army under MERRA.

The Cairo Council of Voluntary Societies has personnel working in the camp from British Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, Near East Foundation, Monnonite Central Relief, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Ambulance Unit. Private agencies also provide some clothing and supplies. The private agencies in March, 1944 had the following personnel at the camp: Dr. Wilson F. Dodd, Near East Foundation, Medical supervisor of the camp; Miss Ruth S. Faust, Near East Foundation, Assistant to Dr. Dodd; Mr. Howard Wriggins, American Friends Service Committee, in charge of Welfare (though it is understood he has since been assigned elsewhere); Miss D. des Quartiers and Dr. Mess, British Red Cross; Miss Vivien Leather,

St. John's Ambulance; Dr. Yoder of Mennonite Central Committee who is assisting in Medical work; Mr. Kerchoffer of Mennonite Central Committee; Messrs. Corder, Bailey, Clood, Marten, Hales, Tennyson, Davies, Curtis, Hick, Denison, Brown, Moorhouse, Walker, Dore, and Woodhead of Friends Ambulance Unit. These were all at the Headquarters, Hospital, and Camp I. At Camp II were Messrs. Linney, Curtis, Ransome, Tilsley, and Bollam of the Friends Ambulance Unit.

Four American Red Cross girls assisted in the early days of opening up the camp by aiding in distribution of clothing and in registration.

Mrs. Margaret J. Florea of the Near East Foundation, at present in Beirut, is expected to arrive to become hospital dietitian and camp nutritionist.

There were four British Army nurses plus one Yugoslav nurse and another Yugoslav nursing assistant in March 1944, in addition to a number of nursing trainees.

Area commandant in charge is a young British engineer, a major, seconded from Civil Affairs Branch to MERRA. Commandant of the larger of the camps is a British major, Catholic and multilingual, also a welfare officer at this camp. South African Commandant of the other and smaller camp, aided by a welfare officer. Mrs. Lothian Small of the Save the Children Fund comes down from Cairo to assist in setting up of centers for maternal and child welfare and for pre-school children. Mr. Keith Linney of the Friends Ambulance Unit is adjutant of Camp III. Mr. Arnold Curtis of Friends Ambulance Unit, is Administrative Officer of Camp III.

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION: The British government, through its Foreign Office, finances through MEERRA. An estimate received from Cairo April 30 gives the following estimate of necessary cash expenditures for the Camp:-

<u>Classification</u>	<u>May and June, 1944</u>		<u>Qua. July thru Sept</u>	
	<u>Pop'n 20,000 to 25,000</u>	<u>U.S.Dollars</u>	<u>Population 30,000</u>	<u>U.S.Dollars</u>
	<u>Egyptian Pounds</u>	<u>at 4.138</u>	<u>Egyptian Pounds</u>	<u>at 4.138</u>
<u>Category A</u>	£ 2,000	\$ 8,276.00	£ 2,500	\$ 10,345.00
Camp Maintenance				
Materials and Equipment				
<u>Category B</u>	935	3,869.03	1,400	5,793.20
Camp Maintenance				
Labor				
<u>Category C</u>	420	1,737.96	630	2,606.94
Camp Administrative Staff				
(Payable by UNRRA)				
<u>Category D</u>	900	3,724.20	1,800	7,448.40
Work Relief Projects				
Tools, Equip. & Materials				
<u>Category E</u>	-	-	-	-
Work Relief Projects				
Refugee Labor				
<u>Category F</u>	19,000	78,622.00	39,000	161,382.00
Pocket Money				
<u>Category G</u>	500	2,069.00	700	2,896.60
Incidental Misc. Expense				
<u>Category H</u>	2,250	9,310.50	4,500	18,621.00
Welfare Services				
(Includes extra food in				
hospital, burials, etc.)				
<u>Category I</u>	200	827.60	300	1,251.40
Transportation of Refugees				
and Escorting Staff				
	<u>£ 26,205</u>	<u>\$ 108,436.29</u>	<u>£ 50,830</u>	<u>\$ 210,334.54</u>

The following is the estimated cost of additional construction and equipment necessary for the accommodation of the increased refugee population:

	<u>Egyptian Pounds</u>	<u>U.S. Dollars at 4.138</u>
May	£ 2,500	\$ 10,345.00
June	25,000	103,450.00
July	2,500	10,345.00
	<u>£30,000</u>	<u>\$124,140.00</u>

FOOD: Food is provided by the British Army. We have no specific information, but it is assumed the arrangements are the same as at Moses Wells - army rations, plus minor local purchases to supplement these.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING: Clothing is distributed free as needed. Some clothing is provided from American Red Cross stocks in the area, which are destined for Balkan relief, and which must be replaced. Some clothing is expected from the Mennonite Central Committee. FEA has been requested to transfer some 1000 yards of cotton flannel, 5000 yards of birdseye, 40,000 yards of unbleached muslin, and 2000 yards of organdie from the Algiers stocks to Cairo for fabrication of emergency clothing for refugees.

Cloth so far requested has been for immediate emergency needs only. There is still great need for children's shoes, cloth for under-clothing and dresses, men's shirts and trousers, findings, wool and knitting needles.

COMMUNITY STORE OR CANTEEN: It is proposed that this be set up and operated by the refugees, but it is not known whether this is in effect.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE: The present hospital is an inadequate permanent building, plus tents. There are also tents for isolation purposes. Serious cases or those needing treatment are sent to the 13th General Hospital. A new hospital that will accommodate 200-300 is at present under construction. The medical work is in charge of Dr. Dodd, Near East Foundation and Dr. Yoder, Men.Cen.Com. Attached is a copy of report by Miss Arnstein on the nursing situation in El Shatt. Clinics are held morning and afternoon. In Camp I, clinics are held in the hospital. Camp No. II has general medical clinics held in a tent every morning and afternoon. Well-baby clinics, started by Mrs. Small of Save the Children Fund, are held at Camps I and II, and operate every morning from 9 to 12 o'clock. A Yugoslav physician resides in Camp I but there is no physician in Camp II and Mrs. Small operates this clinic herself. Immunization clinics for the entire camp will be continued with the opening of Camp No. III.

Some medical supplies are provided by the American Red Cross to supplement those of the British Army.

ALLOWANCES: Yugoslav refugees do not receive cash allowances, but receive, or will receive, their pocket money in the form of coupons entitling them to obtain articles at the camp canteen.

EDUCATION: The only ^{adult} educational program at present in operation is for training of refugee nurses. The classes are conducted through an interpreter, by Miss Ruth Faust of the Near East Foundation. Trainees work 5 hours and have 2-hour classes. Demonstration of nursing procedures is given by one of the British nurses. Two groups a day are taught. Red Cross trainees are also being taught at the camp. Lectures have been given on communicable diseases.

REFUGEE SELF-GOVERNMENT: Refugees are given the opportunity to voice grievances or dissatisfaction with camp management, and to advance suggestions pertaining to the management. They elect their own committees.

IDENTIFICATION OF REFUGEES: MERRA identity documents are used.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON REFUGEE MORALE: Refugee leadership is active and well-developed.

UNRRA

Form No. AD-2

(20 June 1944)

ROUTE SLIP

Date

8/dec

To

Public Information

Room No.

1008

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approval | <p>REMARKS</p> <p>Please return.</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Note and Return | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Note and File | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investigate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Me | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As Requested | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For your information | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Per telephone conversation | |

Camps Sir

From

C. G. Fleener

Room No.

307

441374

ROUTING SLIP

ORDER: NAME: COMMENT:

4 ~~DRYER~~

1 ~~ELLEN R~~

2 ~~Miss Johnson Health~~

3 ~~SAPER~~
Flexner

5 ~~MATTIMORE~~ *Don*

6 ~~STENZ~~ *AB*

7 YOUNG (Files)

*Please ref. to
Miss Flexner
Room 304*

American Friends Service Committee

Twenty South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia 7,  Pennsylvania

November 13, 1944

1 - A. E. Schaub
2 - Miss Flexner

Groun ✓ g.c
~~for the~~

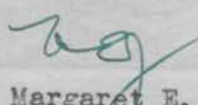
Miss Carolin Flexner
Refugee Camps Division
U N R R A
1344 Connecticut Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Carolin:

Sarah Howells' September report was delayed because she has been ill. It is quite similar to the information in her first letter, which I have shared with a number of people, so I am not circulating this particular report. But I did think that Miss Johnson, of your staff, would be interested in seeing it, and I am, therefore, sending it to her through your office, so that you may read it too! I've sent a copy to Hertha Kraus, who is quite anxious to have all of this material when it comes in.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,



Margaret E. Jones
Foreign Service Section

mej/est

NOV 15 1944

92255

SARAH HOWELLS SEPTEMBER REPORT

After a week of orientation at Maadi, Marie Fast (M.G.C.), an UNRRA nurse and I were sent down to El Shatt to help with the measles epidemic which was raging. When we arrived we found two emergency hospitals, exclusively for measles, had been set up, one in Camp I and the other in Camp II, in buildings which in army days had been used for recreational purposes. They had concrete floors, brick walls, high ceilings with corrugated metal roofs. Each had a capacity of about 250 patients and we were running between 300 and 400 daily average. The system was to admit new patients to Camp I measles hospital ("NAAFI" it was called because it still bears these letters across the outside of the building) until it was full, and then send the overflow to Camp II "NAAFI".

Considering the shortage of nurses, we were much surprised to be put on 8-hour duty - either 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 4 p.m. to midnight. On the 8-4 shift there were usually two fully trained nurses, 4 semi-trained Yugoslav bolnicarke and 15 to 20 Yugoslav volunteers who simply kept the children clean and fed and supplied with drinking water. 4-12 there was usually 1 fully trained nurse, 1 ATS nurse (British Army Territorial Service nurse - i.e. a girl taken from civilian life by the army and trained to do certain kinds of nursing), 3 semi-trained bolnicarke, and 10 to 15 volunteers.

Our biggest problems were the language barrier and our shortages of various supplies: linen, drugs, thermometers, gauze, applicators, hypodermic needles, etc. At one time we had only one thermometer for all of NAAFI I, then housing about 200 patients.

I worked for a time in Camp I NAAFI, then in Camp II NAAFI until we closed it because the epidemic was slackening. Then I was for two days in the isolation unit, where all communicable diseases, except measles and tuberculosis were confined. It is a tent unit, highly inadequate for the purpose, but better than having such cases in the general wards. After two days I was again sent to NAAFI I.

When we closed NAAFI I, Marie Fast and I were given a double assignment - one of us was to be in charge of the TB unit and the other was to be night supervisor for the whole hospital. Every two weeks we were to change, so that no one would have too long on night duty (which incidentally is from 9:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.). Marie Fast started on the night shift and I on TB.

The TB unit is composed of 12 tents, each one for six patients. We have been having 61 patients - 29 men, 29 women, 3 children. They receive special food and rest and various supplemental medicines such as fish liver oil, iron tonic, etc., but no specific treatment for TB. There is great unrest among the patients because they feel (doubtless with reason) that the climate at El Shatt is bad for them and that they should be in a better climate and have specific treatment, such as pneumothorax, for their condition. These and other changes have not, so far, been found possible of accomplishment. One of the crying needs is for an occupational therapy worker who can start the patients on simple craft work and follow up on it. This I am hoping we can do soon. *(Bullington done)*

I have not yet worked the night assignment, so have no first hand information about it yet. The hospital consists of two cinder-brick buildings, housing men's and women's wards, and maternity and children's wards, kitchen, store and work rooms; and the isolation and TB tent units.

There is an arrangement with a nearby British army hospital to take certain cases, especially surgical, for hospitalization, and certain other types for consultation with specialists. As far as I know, this works fairly satisfactorily.

The biggest share of the hospital work is done by Yugoslavs. They operate the admitting office and related machinery. They do the cooking, the cleaning, and the bulk of the nursing. During the worst of the measles, we had 3 or 4 British army nurses on loan to us and for some time had 8 A.T.S. nurses. The army nurses have left, as have 3 of the A.T.S. girls. The remaining 5 have asked to be released from the A.T.S. to join UNRRA, and this is in the process of being done.

Between the time we closed NAAFI 1 and I went "Permanently" on the TB ward, I had the interesting experience of escorting 455 ailing or convalescent children and a sprinkling of mothers from El Shatt to Tolumbat, where the climate is better. It was a 12-hour night trip by special train and was quite like some story. Several of the couches had no light, children were sleeping in luggage racks, both children and adults were sleeping on benches and on the floor; arms, legs, even heads, protruded from compartments or over the edges and between the seats in the 3rd class coaches. Nine 8-gallon cans about three-fourths full of hot water, and packed in straw, were put on the train before we left, and at midnight and again at 6:30am we opened canned milk, added it and sugar to the hot water and had "hot milk" for the travellers. They were also provided with bread, cheese and crackers, so no one got too hungry. We finally delivered them in Tolumbat, not too much the worse for the trip.

Isabel Needham is "matron" in charge of nursing services at Tolumbat. From all I can see, she is doing a beautiful job. In addition to their very nice hospital, they have a well organized out-patient department, clinics for babies (comparable to our "well-baby" clinics at home, but combined with a sort of supplementary feeding station), and clubs for mothers. Dr. Yoder of the MCC is their chief medical officer.

Miss Ruth Faust (I think she is on loan to UNRRA from the Near East Foundation) has done a remarkable job in El Shatt, taking entirely untrained Yugoslav girls, with very limited educational background, and training them as "bohnice", who are the equivalent of our "nurses-aides" at home, but who are taking a constantly increasing share of the responsibility of the hospital and will eventually be practically "trained nurses".

Every minute of the time I spent on Serbo-Croatian language study in College Park and since, has paid big dividends here. I only wish I might have had more! But the Yugoslavs are very friendly and helpful when they find one is trying to learn.

Now a few stories (and they're all true):

These Yugoslavs are very resourceful, especially when manual skills are concerned. To wit: they have taken white cotton tent ropes not absolutely essential to hold the tents up, unravelled them, re-spun them using drop spindles of their own manufacture, and from the resulting thread and with needles filed from heavy wire, have knitted dresses, blouses, panties, socks. I might add that they do beautiful knitting.

The symbol of the Partisans is a blunt, 5-pointed, red star. One day of the wee ones in the NAAFI spilled a little of his drinking water on the floor and amused himself by drawing Partisan stars on the floor with it with his finger.

We had our baby of about two years who, when he first came to NAAFI, would not stay in bed, (the beds were regular refugee beds, not cribs, and stood only about 10" off the floor), so two of the bolnicarke were tying his hand to his bed to keep him from running about the ward. He was protesting vigorously, when I happened along. Seeing a new person, he stopped crying and held up his arms to me, saying in a honeyed voice, "Drugarica, Drugarica," (pronounced drū gār it sã) (drugarica is the feminine of the word meaning "comrade" and is a usual term of address between Partisans). I stopped and talked to him and helped tie the strip of cloth to his wrist. When he saw that I was not going to untie him, but was actually helping fasten the tie, he gave me a big shove and with disgust, disappointment and reproach in his voice said "Drugarica!" (I might add that that was the last time we had to tie him up - after that he stayed without any restraint.)

One day I asked the interpreter how to say, "I am trying -." I understood him to say "pusam." That evening when one of the bolnicarke said to me in Croatian "You are learning Croatian very fast", I said, "Pusam ucik": which was intended to mean "I am trying to learn it." She and the other Jugoslavs present looked mystified and then gave me to understand that "pusam" meant "I am smoking" (a cigarette or pipe). I then tried to demonstrate trying - trying to lift something, trying to find something, etc., but they could not guess what I meant. I tried the word again, but they laughed and pantomimed again that it meant smoking. I tried it in other tenses and persons, but it still seemed to mean "smoke". So I gave it up (we were without an interpreter from 7 PM to midnight) until the next day. When I told the interpreter of my dilemma, he also laughed. The word was not pusam but kušam. When I told the bolnicarke what I had really intended to say, we all had a good laugh over it.

Sarah Howells

Oct. 11, 1944

MOON JIAN ROOM
10 15 16 PM 14 NOV 1944

REC'D

COMBINED ECONOMIC WARFARE AGENCIES21 May 1944
Cairo

Yugoslav refugee camps in Egypt

(Note: The information contained in this report was obtained by an American Army Officer from (a) various officials, one British and the remainder Partisan, at the headquarters camp at El Shatt, and (b) Major Maxto Jaksic, member of the Military Mission of the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia, who is responsible to the NLC for the conduct of the camps).

1. Background

With the help of the Allies, the Partisans have evacuated tens of thousands of homeless refugees from the Dalmatian Coast area. These refugees are removed on Partisan ships - sailed by Partisan crews - to Southern Italy. They are processed (disinfested) at Carbonara, near Bari, a camp run by the sub-commission of the Allied Control Commission. They remain there only 2-3 days and are then turned over to NLC-run camps where they await convoys that will take them to Egypt. These camps are at Lecce, Tutturana, Santa Maria el Bagno, Taranto. The Partisans say that the only camp that is not run with maximum care and efficiency is the Carbonara camp. At one time, about February 1944, they complained that Chetnik sympathizers were permitted to interfere in the camp and that many women were subjected to unnecessary indignities while being disinfested. The Partisans now have a committee which supervises the disinfection. Also in February a large group of refugees was brought to Taranto and put in a camp with no roofs, no beds, no sanitary facilities. The refugees had to sleep on the cold, damp ground and a large number suffered from the cold. The Partisans say that the Chetniks made capital of the situation, telling the refugees that they were being treated thus because they were Partisans, and warning them of worse treatment in the Egyptian desert.

From the camps in Italy the refugees were shipped on convoys to Suez. The sea voyage was 5-10 days. The refugees were pleased with the trip, the accommodations on shipboard, and with the ships' personnel. On the last convoy the seamen collected 200 Egyptian pounds for the aid of the refugees and several hundred pounds of stationery for the children. Two of the sea captains spent their previous few days of leave with the refugees in the desert.

2. Location of camps, personnel

There are now 25,000 Yugoslav refugees in Egyptian desert camps. There are two groups of camps: three at El Shatt and one at Khatatba. The El Shatt camps, which are situated just south-east of Suez, have a total of 20,000; Khatatba has 5,300. By the

end of this month, it is expected that Khatatba will have 20,000. It is expected that the refugee population will become stabilized soon at about 40,000, although accommodations have been made for 60,000.

3. Composition of personnel in camps

Of the 5,363 at Khatatba, there are 300 children 4-6 years of age, about 1300 children 6-10 years of age, and about 400 men. The remainder are women and young girls above 10 years of age. At El Shatt about 40 percent of the population are children. At this writing statistics are being compiled which will show a complete breakdown by age and sex, and I have been promised a copy.

It has been said that there are many able-bodied, healthy-looking specimens in these camps. On the surface it does appear so but when one begins to question young men, the following appears: (a) there are many young men who have been through 3-4 German campaigns, recuperating from wounds and illnesses, (b) there are many who are just coming of military age (18), (c) there are also some who are able and willing to fight. A campaign is under way now for recruitment of those who wish to go back to Yugoslavia to fight. Women will be accepted only for nursing jobs and non-combat duties. It is expected that some 400 will be recruited in this way and that the camps will be virtually cleaned out of every man who is capable of fighting.

4. Relations with MERRA

MERRA (Middle East Refugee Relief Administration) was prepared with a staff to run the camps. The Partisans, through their National Liberation Committee representatives, asked for self-government. After some negotiation, they were given almost complete self-government. MERRA still has a central staff for the central administration of the four camps (headquarters are at El Shatt), and a staff for each camp. The central staff consists of a major in charge, about 10-12 officers, and numerous "other ranks" -- all British. Each camp staff consists of a major in charge, several officers, and "other ranks" -- all British. Theoretically, MERRA controls and supervises the camps through the self-governed camp committees. Practically all the work seems to be done by the Partisans. For example, the stores are brought in by MERRA and turned over to the camp committees. The food is prepared, served, handled, etc., by the Partisans. A British sergeant was seen hanging around the kitchen, apparently looking things over.

Those of us who talked to the camp officers and the sergeant at the kitchen of Camp No. 1 got the impression that the MERRA staff is there for formality's sake and that the Partisan camp committees have the situation well in hand. The Partisans appear to understand this and benignly tolerate the presence of the officers and other-ranks. The MERRA people seemed very proud of the way the camps were being run and have a great respect for the camp committees.

In addition to the camp staff, MERRA has a Yugoslav section in Cairo which handles supplies shipping, administration, etc.

5. Organization of the camps

The camps are self-governed. At the head of the four camps is a Central Committee of Refugees, which consists of seven members, all of whom were members of local or regional National Liberation Committees, elected in Yugoslavia. This central committee is the highest authority in the camp and is responsible to the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia, of which Major Maxto Jaksic is the accredited representative. In addition to the Central Committee, each camp has a committee which is modelled along the same lines. And within each camp there are Section Committees. Finally, at the bottom of the scale in authority, are tent representatives. There is much emphasis on decentralization, delegation of authority, and development of initiative in the lower echelons. For example, the Central Committee does not handle directly any problems that can be handled adequately by the Camp Committee or the Section Committee.

6. The Central Committee of Refugees

The Central Committee is composed of the following seven members (in parentheses following the names is shown the area in which each one was elected):

- a. Ivo Markic, President (Matkovic area NLC)
- b. Mate Barbic, Secretary (Sec'y of NLC for Central Dalmatian Islands)
- c. Zvenke Besker (NLC of Split)
- d. Mate Plasnic (?)
- e. Milivej Viskovic (NLC of Split)
- f. Ivan Jurlina (NLC of Makarska)
- g. Manu Franicevic (NLC of Dalmatia) -- he is replacing Ruzicz Markotic, a woman, who has remained in Italy.

7. Departments under the Central Committee

There are six working departments or sections which are headed up respectively by members of the Central Committee. These sections are duplicated in the Camp Committees and Section Committees. The sections and their subdivisions are as follows (the name of the CC member in charge is shown in parenthesis):

- a. Administrative Section (Barbic)
 - i. Administration
 - ii. Justice
 - iii. Post office
 - iv. Military police
 - v. Registrar
 - vi. Statistics

b. Economics Section (Plasnic)

- i. Food
- ii. Accounts
- iii. Stores
- iv. Canteens

c. Technical Section (Besker)

- i. Planning
- ii. Executive
- iii. Work service
- iv. Workshops
- v. Liaison
- vi. Communications

d. Health Section (Viskovic)

- i. Sanitation
- ii. Medical

e. Culture (Markic)

- i. Schools
- ii. Extra-curricular activities
- iii. Religion
- iv. Sports

f. Information Section (Franicevic)

- i. Oral information (meetings, conferences, etc.)
- ii. Press
- iii. Arts (music, dramatics, handicrafts, etc.)

8. Camp Committees

The Camp Committees are organized in the same way as the Central Committee. The following are the respective presidents of the camps:

- a. Camp No. 1 -- Dusan Arneri (NLC of Korcula)
- b. Camp No. 2 -- Mate Aljinovic (Pres. of Omis District NLC)
- c. Camp No. 3 -- Ivo Cvitanovic (NLC of Island of Vis)
- d. Camp No. 4 -- Ivo Pelajic (NLC of Vodece)

9. Food, supplies, rations, etc.

The refugees receive the regular British army ration or its equivalent. On the day of our visit the noon meal consisted of noodle soup, meat, mashed potatoes, bread, tea, orange. There appeared to be plenty for all. Clothing is strictly a welfare proposition; it is obtained from the Red Cross, refugee relief organizations in Cairo and Alexandria. Once in a while MERRA

obtains small quantities of clothes for them. Each smoker gets 50 V-cigarettes a week from MERRA. There is an Arab store in the area where canteen supplies are obtainable at reasonable prices. The only difficulty is that the refugees have lire in their possession which the Arab exchanges at about 1200 to the Egyptian pound (the official rate is about 410 and at some camps MERRA apparently provides this service -- but not at El Shatt or Khatatba). MERRA promised a canteen to the refugees 3 months ago but it has not yet been installed. However, it is expected to be opened soon. It will be operated on a ration of camp money which will be supplied by MERRA. Up to now the camp committees have been helping the poorer families. The soap ration appears to be inadequate, according to one kitchen worker whom we talked to. He suggested that they would be pleased to get necessary chemicals to make their own soap; they have large quantities of collected fat which can be used for soap-making.

10. Hospitals and medical facilities

This is apparently the touchiest problem in the camp. The Partisans told us frankly that there are insufficient hospital facilities, especially trained doctors and nurses, to care for the sick. There is a central hospital at El Shatt with a capacity of 120 beds. There is a reserve capacity of about 300 beds in the military hospital at Suez which is used for the more difficult cases. The hospital at Khatatba has 200 beds.

a. Doctors and nurses. There are a total of 15 doctors for the four camps, 10 at el Shatt and 5 at Khatatba. Of these, 3 are Yugoslav refugees; the remainder are British and American. There are approximately 60-70 nurses in the various camps. At El Shatt there are 36 Partisan nurses who were trained by an American head nurse; two American nurses; several British nurses and 10 Yugoslav Red Cross nurses (all Slovenes) who are headed by Mrs. Smiljenic, the wife of the Royal Gov't representative on ACC. Attempts have been made to obtain competent Palestinian doctors, who are anxious to work in the camps, but there appear to be "technical difficulties" regarding bringing them into the country, etc.

The leading Partisans consider the lack of proper medical facilities their number one problem. They say that 15 doctors for 25,000 refugees is wholly inadequate, particularly since many of them are in need of medical care when they arrive, especially children.

b. Medical facilities. Each camp has one tent which is used as a children's clinic and for the care of mothers. There is a Partisan staff in each tent whose job it is to bathe and weigh the children, give them their milk, and advise mothers on proper care, etc. Medical supplies are available but it sometimes takes a long while to get them. The American nurse told us that the only cereal available for the children was Pabulum and that only doctors' samples could be had. On several occasions medical supplies have been brought privately in Alexandria, Cairo, and in Palestine. Oranges have not always

been available for the children, except through charity and by cutting the adult ration (which the adults did voluntarily after discussion in the various meetings).

c. Illnesses - particularly children: There have been 19 mental cases, aggravated by the desert climate. There has been dysentery and some pneumonia cases. Most of the illnesses have been children's illnesses. At Khatatba there was a mild epidemic of measles, which is now under control. There were ten deaths of children. These are attributed to the climate and the lack of doctors.

d. Royal Yugoslav nurses: As stated above, there are 10 nurses in El Shatt who were supplied by the Royal Government, headed by the wife of a prominent Royal Yugoslav. At one time Royal Yugoslav Propaganda was being circulated in the camp. It was violently anti-Partisan and it promised the refugees better treatment if they left the Partisan fold. In any event, it is to the credit of everyone concerned that the ten nurses and the Partisans get along well. The Partisans are well satisfied with them and they appear to be happy in their work and associations. Mrs. Smiljenic was hurt in an automobile accident recently and is no longer at the camp.

11. Schools and forums

a. Elementary schools: At El Shatt 3,000 children are enrolled and there are 114 teachers. At Khatatba there were 600 children enrolled and 15 teachers when the camp was 10 days old. Recently 600 more children of elementary school age have arrived.

b. Secondary schools: At El Shatt there are 280 students and 21 teachers. None at Khatatba.

c. Forums and lectures: Lectures on non-political subjects are given, university style. Normally 500 attend lectures on such subjects as geology, chemistry, the story of the planets, explanation of climate, etc.

4. Miscellaneous: Thousands are enrolled in language classes in English and Russian. Illiterates under 40 years of age (they don't insist on education above 40) attend special classes. Some 88 are enrolled at El Shatt (this comprises the total number of illiterates under 40) for whom there are 4 teachers. At Khatatba there are 350 illiterates; classes have not yet begun. A school of agriculture and home economics are planned for Khatatba (which has a desert garden). The biggest problems are: no textbooks for classes, no material for work schools. They are mimeographing equipment. The elementary schools use the sand for blackboards.

12. Religion:

At El Shatt there are six Catholic priests who hold regular services. There are only 250 orthodox-faith refugees in the three camps there. At Khatatba there is one Catholic priest; a church is being started with the help of the apostolic delegate. Application has been made to the Greek orthodox church for a priest; there

are 450 who profess the orthodox faith in Khatatba. During our visit to El Shatt we spoke to a young Catholic priest and witnessed a funeral procession in which another priest participated. When asked why he joined the Partisans, the young priest said, "Because I am a priest and I think like the people."

13. Recreation, camp life, etc.

The people live in the tents, by families, 20 to a tent. The tents are sometimes given the names of cities from which the inhabitants come. The interior of the tents that we looked into (about half-a-dozen where we were obviously unexpected to judge from the surprise of the occupants) was about as home-like as a tent can be, with pictures on the wall, artificial flowers, etc. At El Shatt there is a well-organized sports club with 900 members. There is a lack of sports equipment but it is way down on the camp priority list in terms of complaints. A Sports Festival is being planned. (I don't know if it has occurred to anyone in MERRA but Camp Huckstep is loaded down with a surplus of sports equipment, from footballs and basket-balls to entire game boxes, and some could probably be had for the asking). Political meetings - in tents, in the Sections, and large camp meetings which are attended by several thousand - form an important part of camp life. During our visit we were present at a tent meeting of the Yugoslav equivalent of the boy-and-girl scouts. They were discussing questions raised by the children, such as, "Are there any "neutral" countries?" and similar weighty questions. A young lady of about 20 was leading the discussion, and her audience ranged from eight to 17 years of age.

Music forms an important part of the extra-curricular activities of the refugees. We listened to a concert in which three separate choirs took part; a children's choir, a women's choir (in four voices) and a men's choir. That latter two combined for several songs. The grown-ups choruses were of professional caliber, about 60 voices together, and the songs were very much of the quality of the struggle inside Yugoslavia. Most were stirring martial songs which were written in the country. They also sang several American and British songs (Yankee Doodle, It's a Long Way to Tipperary, God Save the King, the Star Spangled Banner, etc.).

There are also numerous dramatic classes, ballet classes, and associated activities (there were several rehearsals going on during the afternoon).

14. Camp Tolumat

Although not one of the Partisan camps, there are approximately 540 Yugoslavs at Tolumat, on the Mediterranean near Alexandria. Approximately 180 of these were at El Shatt and opted for the Royal government. Hence they were removed to Tolumat. It is a camp for about 1,000 - only 694 are there now. Those that are not Yugoslavs are mostly Greeks, a few Poles and French. The camp looks like a resort on the sea. The buildings are spacious, and there is much greenery. All the cleaning is done by Arab labor. The refugees receive a certain stipend, said to be about three Egyptian pounds a month, for PX supplies, etc. Their lire are

exchanged by MERRA at the rate of 410 to the Egyptian pound.

The Partisans claim that the 180 who left El Shatt were lured by promises of better conditions at the sea-shore, extra pay, money exchange, etc. They also claim that the remaining 360 were largely recruited in the same fashion in Italy. Recently, six of the 180 asked to be returned to the Partisans and such arrangements are being made.

The Partisan leaders are quietly incensed at the discrimination which appears to be shown in favor of the Royal Yugoslavs. A request has been made to make Tolumat available to young children and invalids at the El Shatt and Khatatba camps. They feel that the lives of the children can be saved in that manner. A request has also been made with regard to money exchange. Both proposals are being taken under advisement by MERRA.

15. Personal observations

The most obvious thing about the camps is the high pitch of enthusiasm which the refugees maintain. This is reflected in their efficient self-government, in their multifarious activities, in the condition of their tents, in their exuberance. Most of the refugees come from the Dalmatian Coast area, where there are hills and forests and mild climate. The desert is debilitating. We questioned several about the difficulty of living in the heat of the desert. The replies were consistently, "Our brothers in Yugoslavia have a much harder life." Probably the most startling fact about the refugee camps is that practically the entire 24-hours a day routine is regulated by day-to-day events in Yugoslavia. The subject of conversation, the songs, the plays, the lectures and classes, the posters - all deal with the struggle within Yugoslavia. Thus, being in the desert in Egypt is merely a matter of pure chance and has no bearing whatsoever on their lives (except insofar as the heat and the flies affect them). They are a piece of Yugoslavia transplanted in the Egyptian desert until such a time as they can go back to Yugoslavia. They are developing their social and political organizations, teaching the young, and preparing for that day.

One more thing that becomes obvious is the attitude of the Partisans to the Allies. On every occasion, at every possible opportunity, we were told how much they appreciated Allied aid and assistance. Even when one would admit the justice of harsh criticism on their part - such as regarding the Tolumat situation - they do not criticize the Allies. They even go so far as to justify certain situations on the grounds of "red tape", petty officials, transport difficulties, etc. I found this to be true also during all the time I was in Bari.

C
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AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
Twenty South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

May 25, 1944

Miss Carolin Flexner
United Nations Rehabilitation and
Relief Administration
Dupont Circle Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Carolin Flexner:

It was grand having a glimpse of you the other day. I hope there is another such glimpse in the near future. Meanwhile, so that you will know that we are often thinking of UNRRA, please find enclosed a copy of a report of a visit to the El Chhatt Camp, which report was sent to us by one of our North African delegates who had been in Cairo with James Vail and Howard Wriggins. I have had copies of this report made for our group at Maryland and for Clarence King.

.

Cordially,

MEJ:rjp

Margaret E. Jones

C O P Y

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

20 South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

JUGOSLAV REFUGEE CAMP - EL SHATT, EGYPT

A short time ago I spent two days visiting the above camp of approximately 18,000 Yugoslavs. At the risk of repeating some of Howard Wriggins' observations I should like to describe briefly my impressions.

The camp is situated "somewhere east of Suez," actually less than 10 miles, in a completely desert area. The first group of refugees arrived in January, 1944, and new groups have been arriving at irregular intervals since that time. Most of the refugees are from the Dalmatian coast or islands off the coast. Although all social groups are represented, the majority are peasants - i.e., farmers and fishermen.

A. ORGANIZATION:

The camp is divided into three parts or camps.

The camp is administered by British Army officers, but a large part of the staff is composed of members of various official and voluntary agencies - 8 or 10 from F.A.U.; 3 or 4 from I.V.P.S.; British and American Red Cross; Greek War Relief; Near East Foundation, and others. The supplies for the camp have been paid for by MERRA which as of May 1, 1944 becomes a part of UNRRA. The Commandant of the camp is Major Langman, a man in his late thirties, with strong human interests and an understanding, friendly nature. Under him are three Majors, one in charge of each camp. The F.A.U. boys and others work directly under these three men.

The organization of the refugees themselves is done through the Central Committee, which was appointed by the Partisan Government before the refugees left Yugoslavia. Any requests by the camp administration for labor or services of refugees must be cleared through the Central Committee. On the whole I gathered this relationship was working out only fairly satisfactorily, but that progress was being made. Since necessities are provided to everyone regardless of whether or not he works, and since no regular method of remuneration has yet been established, it is often difficult to get the refugees to volunteer for work. However, plans are nearly completed which will make possible some sort of payment - probably extra rations, or extra payments in some kind of goods, such as soap and cigarettes. With the establishment of a regular method of remuneration, the problem of labor should largely disappear. The big question will be finding suitable activities, which in turn depend on obtaining necessary tools and equipment with which to work.

B. PHYSICAL SET-UP:

The living conditions are fairly primitive. Everyone lives

in tents which are large and surprisingly cool because equipped with double roofs. There are simple, but apparently adequate bathing and toilet facilities. Food is prepared in a number of central kitchens by the refugees under the direction of British Army personnel. Clothing is being distributed according to need by the American Red Cross, and frequently I saw children proudly showing their new red sweaters or pink pajamas to admiring friends. There is a great shortage of footwear, but some attempts are being made to make shoes at the camp.

There are a number of permanent buildings in the area which are used for hospital and administration purposes.

C. HOSPITAL AND HEALTH:

Hospital facilities have been set up and separate wards for men, women, and children and maternity cases have been established. Tents are used as isolation wards, and new permanent buildings are being constructed. In addition, there is in each of the three camps a medical tent where individuals can be examined and given First Aid. Serious cases are referred from there to the hospital which is located at camp #1. For X-ray and most surgical work patients are transported to a British Army hospital at Suez.

At present the hospital and health work is seriously understaffed, but a program for training young Yugoslav girls as nurses' aides is well started. The girls are eager and willing to learn and are making good progress. However, several more trained nurses, especially some with administrative experience, would be most acceptable. An American doctor is in charge of the hospital and has some help from Yugoslav doctors. Recently some U.S. doctors arrived in Cairo, and it is expected that they will be distributed around in the various camps, including El Shatt. In conclusion I think one can safely say that, despite shortages of personnel and equipment, an excellent job is being done by the doctors and nurses.

D. ACTIVITIES:

A number of activities have been started, but have not progress rapidly because of a lack of materials and tools.

1. Shops.

a) Carpentry. 6 or 8 men and boys are employed making blackboards for the "tent-schools," individual "slates" - boards painted black - simple games and other miscellaneous items.

b) Shoe Shop. Half a dozen men are busy patching up old Army boots and also making rope-soled canvas shoes out of pieces of old tenting. I saw some samples of the latter and they appeared to be very serviceable.

It was hoped that a large number of now shoeless women and children could be equipped with this sort of footgear.

c) Sewing. The Yugoslav women are very skilful at needlework and whenever materials are available they turn out fine work, making clothes for themselves and their families.

2. Schools.

A number of schools for children of all ages from 6 to 16 have been started. School is held in "tents" and most of the work is oral and choral, because paper, pencils, ink, etc., are almost non-existent. Strangely enough, the camp possesses plenty of chalk, so that the blackboards now "under construction" will mean a chance for some written work. The teaching is done by teachers and college professors. I met some of these people and they seemed like intelligent and devoted people. As the organization of the camp proceeds, adult classes will be started.

3. Child Welfare.

Arrangements for the bathing, feeding, weighing and instruction in the care of babies up to 2 years of age have been set up. Equipment is very meagre, bottles especially being at a premium. However, valuable work is being done, and many of the refugees are learning for the first time about health care for their children.

E. THE REFUGEES.

During my short visit I did not become acquainted with individual refugees, but did talk with a few. They are very political-minded, for the most part strongly Partisan (Pro-Tito) in their loyalties. Their chief desire is naturally to return home as soon as possible, and unlike many European refugees they in all likelihood will have something to go back to. It is difficult to judge their health. They are swarthy people, and many looked well and strong, especially the women. However, there was also plenty of evidence of malnutrition among the little children. The general spirit seemed good, considering how little there was to do, and the administration is well aware of the need for more useful and purposeful activities than exist at present.

F. COOPERATION BETWEEN ARMY OFFICERS AND VOLUNTARY SOCIETY PERSONNEL.

I was very much impressed with the fine working relationship which seemed to exist between the Army administrators and the private

organization workers. There was mutual respect and understanding between all parties with plenty of responsibility given to the volunteers. It convinced me quite definitely that members from different organizations could work together effectively on a common problem.

Henry Scattergood,
Delegate.

April 21, 1944
Casablanca

File El Shatt

REPORT ON VISIT TO EL SHATT YUGOSLAV CAMPS - March 14 - 18 1944.

by

MARGARET G. ARNSTEIN, R.N.

PRESENT NURSING SITUATION.

There were 110 patients in the hospital including the isolation tents. All cases of communicable disease are in tents, other cases are in permanent building.

Serious cases, or those needing special treatments, are sent to the 13th General Hospital, 103 were hospitalized there on March 14th.

A new hospital is now under construction which will accommodate 200 - 300 patients and the tents will no longer need to be used.

PERSONNEL.

Total six nurses plus one Yugoslav who may be a Nurse.

There are four British Army nurses. These nurses are changed every three weeks, and the Army is very anxious to withdraw the nursing personnel entirely as soon as possible.

Each nurse is in charge of one ward, counting the nine isolation tents as one ward.

There is one Yugoslav nurse, Mme. Smelanic who has only recently returned to nursing work. She is also in charge of one ward and also of the assignment and welfare of the Yugoslav Red Cross girls who are learning to be nurse assistants. There is another Yugoslav who is either a trained nurse or trained assistant.

There is one American nurse, Miss Ruth Faust who is in charge of the refugee nurse trainees. She also conducts classes (through an interpreter) assigns them to duty and assists in their supervision on the "ward".

No nurse is in charge of nursing. The British sisters arrange their hours off informally amongst themselves. At the present time they work 8:30 - 1:00 (break for tea 11:00 a.m.) 1:30 - 4:30 (tea 4:30 - 5:30) 5:30 - 7:30.

Night duty is covered by the trainees and a British medical orderly acts as night supervisor.

Each nurse is supposed to have one day off a week.

The trainees work 5½ hours and have two hours classes.

INSTRUCTION OF TRAINEES.

The Red Cross girls, as far as any one knows, have had no classes. They have received all their instruction in the wards. I did not observe their work but apparently they have done very well and do all the nursing work of the wards under supervision. (See "plans" for further comment).

The refugee trainees had demonstrations of nursing procedures from one of the British nurses (Sister Jones) who was in Camp the first three weeks.

Miss Faust has reviewed the isolation technique procedures and has given them lectures on the communicable diseases which are now hospitalized, i.e., chicken pox, mumps, scarlet fever, whooping cough and diphtheria. Miss Faust used the headings in the A.P.H.A. communicable disease booklet as the outline for this material.

Miss Faust has been teaching the same material to two groups a day, the night nurses and afternoon groups, in the morning and the morning group in the afternoon.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

The following schedule will be tried out:

Miss Faust will spend more time working with the trainees in the tents and then she will have them all together for one hour of class a day. Tentatively the time was set for 11:00 - 12:00 as it was felt that they could all be spared at this hour.

During the class Miss Faust will review the procedures that they have already been taught and will also teach in relation to her observations in the tents. It was suggested that she try to tie up a little simple anatomy and physiology with nursing procedures as she taught them. No detailed plan has been made beyond this point.

Miss Faust thinks that this schedule will give her sufficient time to teach classes to the Red Cross trainees also.

OTHER MEDICAL AND NURSING ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMPS.

Camp No. 2 has a general medical clinic held in a tent every morning and afternoon. I did not have a chance to see this clinic in action but did observe and assist in

the skin and surgical clinic one morning. In camp No. 1 these "clinics" are held in the hospital.

There is a well baby "clinic" at Camp No. 1 and one at Camp No. 2. These operate every morning from 9 - 12. Mrs. Small from Save the Children Fund has started these clinics and operates the one at Camp No. 2. There is no physician in attendance unless the surgical and clinic tent is not busy and the physician has time to come over to the "baby tent".

In Camp No. 1 a Yugoslav physician is present and Yugoslav refugees have been quick to learn, and they assist him, in addition to helping the mothers bathe their babies and make their formulas.

In addition to these regular activities there have of course been immunization clinics for the entire camp and with the opening of Camp No. 3 this week this activity will have to be continued for some weeks in this new camp.

NURSING NEEDS.

Tentative Suggestions.

1. Minimum Number of Nurses needed 11.
 - a) One Nurse to be in charge of all nursing activities and assist with instruction.
 - b) Two Nurses, one at each of the medical tents at Camp No. 2.
 - c) Three Nurses, one for each welfare station. In the afternoon these Nurses could visit in the tents.
 - d) Four Nurses to replace the British Army Nurses in the Hospital. When the new hospital is completed this number will probably have to be increased.
 - e) One Nurse to assist in supervision in the isolation tents and in teaching classes.

REPORT ON VISIT TO EL SHATT YUGOSLAV CAMPS - March 14 - 18 1944

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Medications.

They are very short of medications of certain types but Dr. Dodd says these have been ordered though it may be some weeks before they arrive.

A few specific examples observed in skin and surgical clinics are given below.

1. Sulpha drugs cannot be spared from the hospital to treat suppurating otitis media which has not responded to other treatment (but I heard they were used very lavishly in the hospital, perhaps when not indicated).

2. Salycilic acid ointment	None
Vermifuge	None
Calamine lotion	None
Ammoniated mercury	Low
Sulphur	None - is coming
Benzyl benzoate	None
Tongue blades	None
Applicators	None
Short supply soap ?	

Diet

1. Milk ration is 11 1/5 oz. per day for mothers
and children
3 1/2 oz. per day for men and boys
of 14 and over

This seems like a very small ration but present consumption and dietary customs should probably be investigated before recommending a change.

2. There is need for different food for children six months to two years of age.

Immunization

In view of the fact that most of these people come from isolated districts it would seem that diphtheria immunizations might be needed. They have had two cases of diphtheria in the six weeks since the camp was established.

Personnel

Medical personnel are still not being cleared through Dr. Dodd. Mrs. Small (Save the Childrens Fund) told me that two physicians from Save the Children Fund were coming

out from England. Dr. Dodd knew nothing about this.

On Saturday Dr. Dodd was quite concerned about the shortage of medical staff as two were sick and one had been transferred leaving only three physicians including himself to care for the two camps and the third camp was expected to open early the following week. On Sunday evening two British Red Cross physicians arrived. Dr. Dodd certainly had not known Saturday that they were available. I did not speak to him Monday before I left so do not know whether their appearance was a surprise or not.

Cash.

Strongly urge that a cash fund be provided in camp for necessary emergency expenditures pending the arrival of goods ordered. This could be a definite stated monthly amount.

REPORT ON VISIT TO EL SHATT YUGOSLAV CAMPS -- March 14 - 18 1944

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING PERSONNEL POLICIES.

1. Suggest that nursing personnel be allowed to save one regular day off and be given one additional day a month so that they can come to Cairo for three days each month if they wish to.

2. Suggest that if possible metal cots be obtained before summer as it is impossible to keep the present wood and rope structures free of bugs. The American Red Cross girls have three Army cots and mattresses in their tent.

UNITED **YUGOSLAV** RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA

Sponsored by **THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF YUGOSLAVIA, INC.**

PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD REGISTRATION NO. 470

11 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1944

No. 6

First Shipment of Clothing on Way to El Shatt



The camp for Yugoslav refugees in El Shatt, Egypt, where the United Yugoslav Relief Fund is financing the work of a physician, a nurse, and a nutritionist.

The first two cargoes of used and new clothing have recently been shipped by the United Yugoslav Relief Fund to El Shatt, Egypt, where approximately 40,000 Yugoslav refugees have been assembled in special camps. As is the case with all other forms of relief handled by the Fund, the clothing will be distributed without regard to the religious, racial or political background of the recipients.

The cargoes consisted of 17,110 lbs. of miscellaneous clothing and shoes for men, women and children. All garments were cleaned, sorted, mended and baled in the Fund's warehouse in New York and then fumigated before they were shipped. Thousands of other garments are ready to be sent to other Yugoslav refugees as soon as shipping space becomes available, and to the people inside war-torn Yugoslavia as soon as the military situation permits.

Gratifying as this latest development of the Fund's program is, it should be considered only as the initial step of what National Headquarters hopes will soon grow into a steady, uninterrupted flow of garments to destitute Yugoslavs.

So far, the clothing collection has been good, but the need is so large and pressing, especially in view of the imminent liberation of Yugoslavia, that a much larger amount must be obtained. Urgent appeals for clothing from every section of that ravaged country have reached National Headquarters, again and again.

A greater opportunity to help the valiant Yugoslavs now presents itself to the Fund's committees, cooperating groups, and friends. The Fund earnestly calls on them to redouble their efforts, to devise new and better means to collect more and more clothing in order to assure continued shipments this fall and winter.

Clothing, too, can help to save a human life.



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CAMP LIFE AT EL SHATT

As shown in the pictures, Yugoslav refugees in El Shatt, Egypt, now free from Nazi terror, can at last enjoy a somewhat normal life for the first time in many years.

1. This little girl diligently studies her lessons in peace and comfort.
2. Refugees enjoying a game of chess in their tent.
3. Talents and trades are utilized. This refugee, painting a sign to identify the camp, was an artist in his native Yugoslavia.
4. Church services are held regularly and are a vital part in the life at the camp.
5. The refugees cook their own food under the supervision of a nutritionist whose work is being financed by the UYRF.
6. Education goes on. Youngsters attend classes out of doors.

7. "Come and Get It," and they got it. A dining room scene at the camp.

8. This woman has come into the dispensary for a check-up. In addition to dispensaries, there is also a well equipped hospital. The work of a physician and nurse is being financed by the United Yugoslav Relief Fund.

9. The refugees build camp furniture. Here two of them are at work in the carpenter's shop.

10. These bales, containing clothing, are being loaded on a truck in front of the UYRF's warehouse in New York, on their way to the camp.



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Clothing Collection Continues

A city-wide collection of clothing in Boston and about thirty-five surrounding towns is now taking place, Morton P. Prince, Chairman of the Fund's Committee, has reported. Mrs. Somers Fraser, a member of the Committee, is the Chairman of the clothing collection which started October 1st and will continue to November 1st. The Christian Science War Relief Committee has already contributed twenty-five cases of garments which were cleaned, thoroughly mended and made virtually new. An additional fifty cases of garments will be donated by the same group sometime this month.

Another city-wide collection will take place in Philadelphia, during November, under the auspices of the public school system. Mrs. Percy Madeira, Jr., Chairman of the Fund's Committee, has announced that the United Yugoslav Relief Fund will participate in the collection. Judging from the success which similar campaigns met in the past, it is expected that approximately 200,000 lbs. of clothing will be obtained. The collection will be equally shared by the participating organizations which are, in addition to the United Yugoslav Relief Fund: British War Relief, Russian War Relief, Greek War Relief and the Save the Children Federation.

During the past month, the Fund's warehouse in New York received clothing from the following centers, cooperating groups and friends:

Boston, 1,153 lbs.; Hawthorne, New Jersey, 205 lbs.; New Haven, Conn., 107 lbs.; Madison, Conn., 152 lbs.; North Bergen, New Jersey, 15 lbs.; Philadelphia, Penna., 2,055 lbs.; Trenton, New Jersey, 1,635 lbs.; Tulsa, Okla., 90 lbs.; Steve Perry, New York City, 500 lbs.; Mrs. Bergen, Wellesley, Mass., 87 lbs. Through the efforts of Mrs. Scherman of the New Comers Christian Fellowship, 130 lbs. were collected at the Parish House of the 2nd Presbyterian Church in New York.

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

The United Yugoslav Relief Fund of America is a non-denominational and non-political organization. Its purpose is to help all suffering Yugoslavs, civilians and prisoners of war, whenever or wherever they can be reached, without regard to their religious, racial or political background.



After Germany, What?

Pointing out that victory over Germany may very well increase, rather than diminish, the need for serving our own forces and for aiding the people of the liberated countries, Winthrop W. Aldrich, President of the National War Fund, in a statement issued recently expresses the hope that a generous America, through state and local war chests, will continue extending its support to the National War Fund so that its member agencies may be able to meet effectively these greater needs.

Mr. Aldrich's statement follows: "Whenever the German war is ended, and the rejoicing is over, we shall have to face these facts:

"First, because we must keep large forces in Europe for a longer time than any American will wish to contemplate, and because the repatriation of war prisoners is a long and complicated task, the end of fighting must inevitably create problems of morale which will tax to the limit the energies and resources of the three major agencies serving our own forces—the USO, United Seamen's Service and War Prisoners Aid.

"Second, the liberation of occupied lands will present, in most cases for the first time, challenging opportunities for private aid and services, to supplement the relief programs of UNRRA and other government agencies. Whatever we can do, we shall all want to do quickly and generously, for the people of these countries are those who have suffered most.

"Third, we shall still be fighting a great war—our war with Japan. For this the USO, United Seamen's Service and War Prisoners Aid must be ready for bigger tasks. We must remember too that the day is drawing near when the liberation of the Philippines, and an open door to China, will bring us face to face with traditional responsibilities which all Americans will gladly welcome.

"Victory over Germany, therefore, whenever it comes, will undoubtedly create shifts in certain agency programs, but may very well increase, rather than diminish, the need for our help.

"Fortunately, our budget processes—swift, elastic and impartial—assure fair handling of this critical and difficult situation.

"But a generous America, through state and local war funds, must assure the National War Fund that the work of its member agencies will go forward until the day when our men and women in the armed forces are back in their homes.

"Meanwhile, let us dedicate our efforts to them, and let us strive greatly to match their victories with ours."

Connecticut Committee Formed

Mrs. Sidney Withington, one of the Fund's most active workers and Chairman of the New Haven, Conn., Committee has graciously accepted the chairmanship of a Connecticut State Committee and is busily engaged in building it into a strong organization.

Under the energetic leadership of Mrs. Withington, well-functioning cooperating groups have been established in New Haven, Madison and surrounding communities. Thousands of pounds of clothing have been collected from these centers. Now that Mrs. Withington has extended her activities to cover the whole state of Connecticut, National Headquarters is assured that other strong groups will soon be formed to work for the Fund.

UNITED YUGOSLAV RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA

Sponsored by

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF YUGOSLAVIA, INC.

National Headquarters

11 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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File: El Shatt
@ after

To: Foreign Service Staff, Committee, Unit Members' Families

From: Margaret E. Jones

Date: 11/9/44

Extracts from William Edgerton's letters to his wife, Jewell (beginning early in September) are full of vivid pictures of his work as one of the welfare directors at Camp 3, El Shatt. Viola Pfrommer is the other welfare director. I have arranged the following excerpts according to subjects, summarizing various paragraphs in Bill's letters, and only occasionally quoting directly from those letters.

CEP
CRC
ESC
FLA
JEB
JGV
HK
WE
OHW
HW
LKJ
NY
JA
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LHJ
EG
MEJ
MPS
GFW
LC
SM
IA
EJ
WLE
BW

The Camp

Everyone lives in tents, but the kitchens, the central hospital, and some offices are housed in buildings. Henry Russell and Bill share a tent which is a very comfortable British army tent.

There are a carpentry shop, shoe shop, sewing tent, soft toy tent, and a metal working shop, all manned by skilled artisans and young apprentices.

Around the tents are little patches of kaffir corn, which the refugees delight in growing.

Each camp has its own governing committee made up of representatives of the refugees.

The school is set up in the dining hall tents, where each camp block of about 1000 persons takes its meals. The equipment is extremely limited, with the three blackboards being used by turns. There are no textbooks. The pupils learn to read from mimeographed copies of the camp newspaper and from any stray copies of Allied propaganda which is in Serbo-Croatian. The other two camps in El Shatt have much better equipped schools.

Occasionally the staff go for a swim in the Gulf of Suez or the Canal---the former is preferable.

One of the joys are the sunsets, which are wonderful, with darkness setting in immediately. The nights are cool, and the days not too warm for comfort.

The People

Camp 3 is the newest and least organized of the camps. The people are less well educated, have less leadership, have suffered more. Some of the more recent arrivals lived in forests and caves and had been hunted by the Germans for years before they escaped. A great many have hardly enough clothes to cover themselves. In spite of everything they have done marvels and

"you are immediately impressed by a sort of integrity that seems to be common to the whole group and by their friendliness and appreciativeness of any effort you make."

The sense of craftsmanship and ingenuity are quite remarkable. They put careful, expert workmanship into even the simplest things. The shoemakers will take completely valueless shoes, cut out the good bits of leather, and make new pairs out of scraps. They make soles from hemp rope by winding it around within the frame made of nails driven in a board in the shape of a footprint. The women make uppers out of pieces of cloth. The metal workers make drinking cups out of tin scraps and knitting needles out of wire. The latter are to be used for home knitting all over camp to make clothes for winter. In the toy shop young girls make stuffed animals and dolls for the children.

Comrade Danitsa, a devoted Partisan past middle age who fought until she was too badly wounded to go on, is in charge of the tents where 170 orphan children are cared for. They live 20 in a tent, each in the charge of a grown woman, with Comrade Danitsa supervising them. She is a mixture of physical strength and toughness and motherly tenderness, and the children adore her.

"One of our interpreters, George, has talked at length with me about his experiences. He is very bitter toward the Royalist Chetniks, almost more so than toward the Germans. He has told me how the Partisans fought with practically nothing and that the hardship that they have endured is beyond belief. Other things stand out in my conversations with George, particularly the determination of the Partisans to rebuild the country in such a way that people will no longer go hungry. A kind of fierce idealism shines through George's conversation and characterizes a great part of the Partisan movement, but," says Bill, "That idealism is complicated by a lot of other characteristics that I think I am beginning to perceive. The whole thing is so confused, certainly in my own mind and perhaps also to a large extent in the movement itself at this stage, that I won't try to generalize further now."

Some of the staff members with Bill are Mary Emma Showalter, an American Mennonite working in Camp 5 on nutrition, especially in the children's kitchens (The children are getting an additional special diet); Miss Rainey, a nurse from England; Kay McCullough, one of the six American Girl Scout executives; Captain Blake, from South Africa (He was an artist before the war); a Russian woman doctor who has worked in Italy; another woman doctor from Czechoslovakia recently arrived from the Zionist colony in Palestine; a Roumanian doctor who worked in Spain with David Blickenstaff; a Czech doctor and his wife, a nurse, from Palestine; Mrs. McKenzie, from England; Major Heselton, an old army man who is commandant of Camp 3.

A Day's Activities

On reaching the camp office, by riding a mile in the truck, Bill began to work on 34 requests from Yugoslavs in the camp for inquiries through the International Red Cross about relatives living in German-occupied territory or in other parts of the world.

A long conference followed (after settling down to start a job with the teen-aged Yugoslav boy and girl who are doing clerical work in the office) with Mr. Puhailovic, the member of the camp committee in charge of clothing distribution. He is a hard working man with a great sense of order and organization. They checked his lists of children who were to receive clothes the next day at the Red Cross distribution which occurs twice a week, when 200 people are given clothes as requested on the slips of paper which each must carry. Bill and Puhailovic must decide who shall receive clothes next. The Red Cross distributes only to women and children up to 14. A first round of such distributions has been made, and the children are now getting a second distribution. This keeping of accurate and complete records of all clothing issued is a new departure and has, this editor believes, been developed since Vi and Bill took over this work.

Next the Yugoslav interpreter and Bill started out on a round of small errands---distributing magazines---checking on the carpenters who are making new blackboards from material Bill had "scroured"---promising to get two-and three-inch nails to the carpenters in the near future---collecting some signs from a mad artist who doesn't always quite produce the agreed-upon posters---conferring with one of the army officers about organizing a net-making shop among the fishermen---ordering some wire from the quartermaster's storeyard sent to the Camp 3 hospital so that it could be used for a clothes line---checking on the material needed at the toy shop---sympathizing with the director of the dress-making shop because for 30 workers she only had four pairs of very poor scissors---arranging for Augusta Mayerson, migration expert, to see a man who wants eventually to reach the United States---salvaging quantities of women's shoes sent from Australia, made before the last war, in impossible styles and never used. (The shoemakers will salvage them for shoes for children, the leather from the knee-high uppers will go to the toy shop to make stuffed leather toys, and the best of the lot will be remodeled into useable shoes for women.) Bill's last stop on this series of errands was to interview a Slovene woman who knows how to mold bread into artificial flowers that harden when they dry and can be painted. "I took along a plaster of Paris mold I had made of a chess king to see if she can make chess men by the same process." They finished the day with dinner at 7:30, half an hour earlier because of a movie that was to be shown at mess.

Bill was put in charge of the six shops in Camp 3. This means that he must get the necessary materials and discuss the work for each shop with the employees. He says that they hope to have many more young apprentices, but the number is limited by the amount of supplies available. He is planning for a tailor shop. He has

already written his small daughter, suggesting that she cut out colored magazine pictures for the little boys and girls in the camp. "There is no limit to the number we could use, so if anyone should ask you about some little thing which might be done, there it is. The pictures ought to be cut out, because we haven't got enough scissors for the barbers and dress-makers, let alone the children, but we could put them into our homemade scrapbooks over here."

Some Observations

A small group of Indian troops who are taking care of some of the engineering work around the camp invited Bill and Henry and four or five other persons to dinner at the mess hall. There are only two officers in this group, one a young Englishman whose general outlook is remarkably like Henry's and Bill's, and the other a young Indian. The dinner was an unforgettable occasion, as the Indians did their utmost to prepare an enjoyable evening. The men were stalwart, fine looking fellows, some were Hindus, some were Moslems, and some Sikhs. Only a few spoke English and they sat with the other guests. Usually the Moslem and Hindu soldiers eat at separate mess halls, but that custom was broken in the guests' honor on this occasion, and each group ate their own meal in the same room, with the occidentals being first served a Moslem meal, and following that Hindu food was served to them. Bill says that the cooks put in only about half the usual amount of hot seasoning, which was still about twice the amount they were used to. The guests ate as their hosts did---with the thumb and first three fingers of the right hand---the orthodox way to eat in India. Forks and spoons were provided for the occidental guests, but they were not used.

Bill reports some very interesting comments made by some of their hosts. Following the meal the group played and sang and performed Indian dances, and one particular one Bill rates as marvelous and describes in detail.

A long paragraph in one of his letters expresses appreciation for the Yugoslavs' music, to which he was introduced by a remarkable program of choral music and folk dancing which celebrated the entry of Russian and British troops into Yugoslav territory. The music was glorious and thrilling---the chorus singing Russian, English, American, and French songs. The emphasis was definitely militant. Bill was also impressed with the way the Yugoslavs threw themselves into every part of the program---the singing, the folk dancing and then the big dance at the end which included both ordinary dancing and the Yugoslav Kola. Even the children who took part danced with the same sort of the whole-hearted enthusiasm as the older people showed, and there was not a trace of shyness nor awkwardness.

On the Sunday that Barclay Jones visited the camp, in the morning while it was still early and cool, Bill, Henry, Vi, Becky Taylor, Sarah Howells, and Barclay Jones held a Quaker meeting on the desert sitting in a circle on the sand. It was a deeply refreshing period for Bill.

Bill is venturing careful observations. "It is a dangerous thing for anybody to have power, whether political or economic, over other people without being responsible to those people for the way he exercises that power..... It is tragic to think that the suffering the Yugoslavs have already gone through and the sufferings ahead of them will be largely futile unless they can understand this principle of responsible government."..... "The only uncomfortable thing about life here is the not too democratic luxury of having a servant (a British batman) to take care of my tent, make my bed, look after my laundry, and bring my hot tea every morning. I don't feel comfortable with all that, but I feel far more uncomfortable when I step outside of this little temporary bit of Yugoslavia into the real Egypt, and the thought of the misery in Europe now and for years to come doesn't help to make me feel more comfortable."..... "As far as my own deepest convictions are concerned, they have only been deepened and strengthened by all that I have experienced since I left home..... Whatever difficulties, discomforts, hard work or petty annoyances I may face, or however great my loneliness..... I couldn't possibly have stayed home and lived comfortably through this period."

10 May 1944

EL SHATT CAMP

LOCATION: In the desert, on the eastern side of the Suez Canal opposite the town of Suez; 100 miles east of Cairo; 10 miles from Moses Wells, Suez, Egypt.

TYPE OF CAMP AND BRIEF HISTORY: Was established under MERRA early in 1944 as a semi-permanent refugee camp to accommodate the Yugoslavs evacuated to Egypt through Italy.

POPULATION: The refugees are Yugoslavs, predominantly Croat and Roman Catholic, mainly from islands off Split, and also the Dalmatian coastal strip. As of February 18, 1944, the total population was 11,261, (3,373 men, 4,637 women, and 3,251 children). In April 1944, there was a total population of 10,920, (2,750 men, 4,073 women, and 4,097 children). According to latest figures of April 30, 1944, there are expected to be 20,000 to 25,000 refugees in May-June, 1944 and 30,000 during the period July-September, 1944.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES: Each refugee is registered on arrival, though some are registered on shipboard en route. MERRA identity documents are used.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF CAMP: The site is large and located in the desert (soft sand) approximately 10 miles from Moses Wells, Suez. The conditions are very primitive. Wind and sandstorms are frequent. There are three sub-camps.

At the time of our report the camp was being constructed and equipped. With the exception of three or four brick buildings, one of which was being used for the hospital, all refugees were in tents. Privies were in use. A new hospital to accommodate 200-300 patients is at present under construction. This will do away with the necessity of using tents for isolation purposes. At present, cases needing special treatment are sent to the 13th General Hospital.

Staff quarters consist of tents with burlap "floors," cots with rope springs, and mattresses on top. The only furniture is a wash-bowl on stand; valises serve as bureaus, shelves, etc. One privy exists for the staff. Washing is done in individual basins from water obtained from women's compound.

ADMINISTRATION: Camp is under the administration of MERRA, and is operated and supplied by the British Army under MERRA.

The Cairo Council of Voluntary Societies has personnel working in the camp from British Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, Near East Foundation, Monnonite Central Relief, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Ambulance Unit. Private agencies also provide some clothing and supplies. The private agencies in March, 1944 had the following personnel at the camp: Dr. Wilson F. Dodd, Near East Foundation, Medical supervisor of the camp; Miss Ruth S. Faust, Near East Foundation, Assistant to Dr. Dodd; Mr. Howard Wriggins, American Friends Service Committee, in charge of Welfare (though it is understood he has since been assigned elsewhere); Miss D. des Quartiers and Dr. Mess, British Red Cross; Miss Vivien Leather,

St. John's Ambulance; Dr. Yoder of Mennonite Central Committee who is assisting in Medical work; Mr. Kerchoffer of Mennonite Central Committee; Messrs. Corder, Bailey, Clood, Marten, Hales, Tennyson, Davies, Curtis, Hick, Denison, Brown, Moorhouse, Walker, Dore, and Woodhead of Friends Ambulance Unit. These were all at the Headquarters, Hospital, and Camp I. At Camp II were Messrs. Linney, Curtis, Ransome, Tilsley, and Bollam of the Friends Ambulance Unit.

Four American Red Cross girls assisted in the early days of opening up the camp by aiding in distribution of clothing and in registration.

Mrs. Margaret J. Florea of the Near East Foundation, at present in Beirut, is expected to arrive to become hospital dietitian and camp nutritionist.

There were four British Army nurses plus one Yugoslav nurse and another Yugoslav nursing assistant in March 1944, in addition to a number of nursing trainees.

Area commandant in charge is a young British engineer, a major, seconded from Civil Affairs Branch to MERRA. Commandant of the larger of the camps is a British major, Catholic and multilingual, also a welfare officer at this camp. South African Commandant of the other and smaller camp, aided by a welfare officer. Mrs. Lothian Small of the Save the Children Fund comes down from Cairo to assist in setting up of centers for maternal and child welfare and for pre-school children. Mr. Keith Linney of the Friends Ambulance Unit is adjutant of Camp III. Mr. Arnold Curtis of Friends Ambulance Unit, is Administrative Officer of Camp III.

FINANCIAL ORGANIZATION: The British government, through its Foreign Office, finances through MERRA. An estimate received from Cairo April 30 gives the following estimate of necessary cash expenditures for the Camp:-

<u>Classification</u>	<u>May and June, 1944</u>		<u>Qua. July thru Sept</u>	
	<u>Popn 20,000 to 25,000</u>	<u>Egyptian U.S.Dollars</u>	<u>Population 30,000</u>	<u>Egyptian U.S.Dollars</u>
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>at 4.138</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>at 4.138</u>
<u>Category A</u>	£ 2,000	\$ 8,276.00	£ 2,500	\$ 10,345.00
Camp Maintenance				
Materials and Equipment				
<u>Category B</u>	935	3,869.03	1,400	5,793.20
Camp Maintenance				
Labor				
<u>Category C</u>	420	1,737.96	630	2,606.94
Camp Administrative Staff				
(Payable by UNRRA)				
<u>Category D</u>	900	3,724.20	1,800	7,448.40
Work Relief Projects				
Tools, Equip. & Materials				
<u>Category E</u>	-	-	-	-
Work Relief Projects				
Refugee Labor				
<u>Category F</u>	19,000	78,622.00	39,000	161,332.00
Pocket Money				
<u>Category G</u>	500	2,069.00	700	2,896.60
Incidental Misc. Expense				
<u>Category H</u>	2,250	9,310.50	4,500	18,621.00
Welfare Services				
(Includes extra food in				
hospital, burials, etc.)				
<u>Category I</u>	200	827.60	300	1,251.40
Transportation of Refugees				
and Escorting Staff				
	<u>£ 26,205</u>	<u>\$ 108,436.29</u>	<u>£ 50,830</u>	<u>\$ 210,334.54</u>

The following is the estimated cost of additional construction and equipment necessary for the accommodation of the increased refugee population:

	<u>Egyptian</u>	<u>U.S. Dollars</u>
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>at 4.138</u>
May	£ 2,500	\$ 10,345.00
June	25,000	103,450.00
July	2,500	10,345.00
	<u>£30,000</u>	<u>\$124,140.00</u>

FOOD: Food is provided by the British Army. We have no specific information, but it is assumed the arrangements are the same as at Moses Wells - army rations, plus minor local purchases to supplement these.

CLOTHING AND BEDDING: Clothing is distributed free as needed. Some clothing is provided from American Red Cross stocks in the area, which are destined for Balkan relief, and which must be replaced. Some clothing is expected from the Mennonite Central Committee. FEA has been requested to transfer some 1000 yards of cotton flannel, 5000 yards of birdseye, 40,000 yards of unbleached muslin, and 2000 yards of organdie from the Algiers stocks to Cairo for fabrication of emergency clothing for refugees.

Cloth so far requested has been for immediate emergency needs only. There is still great need for children's shoes, cloth for under-clothing and dresses, men's shirts and trousers, findings, wool and knitting needles.

COMMUNITY STORE OR CANTEEN: It is proposed that this be set up and operated by the refugees, but it is not known whether this is in effect.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE: The present hospital is an inadequate permanent building, plus tents. There are also tents for isolation purposes. Serious cases or those needing treatment are sent to the 13th General Hospital. A new hospital that will accommodate 200-300 is at present under construction. The medical work is in charge of Dr. Dodd, Near East Foundation and Dr. Yoder, Men.Cen.Com. Attached is a copy of report by Miss Arnstein on the nursing situation in El Shatt. Clinics are held morning and afternoon. In Camp I, clinics are held in the hospital. Camp No. II has general medical clinics held in a tent every morning and afternoon. Well-baby clinics, started by Mrs. Small of Save the Children Fund, are held at Camps I and II, and operate every morning from 9 to 12 o'clock. A Yugoslav physician resides in Camp I but there is no physician in Camp II and Mrs. Small operates this clinic herself. Immunization clinics for the entire camp will be continued with the opening of Camp No. III.

Some medical supplies are provided by the American Red Cross to supplement those of the British Army.

ALLOWANCES: Yugoslav refugees do not receive cash allowances, but receive, or will receive, their pocket money in the form of coupons entitling them to obtain articles at the camp canteen.

adult

EDUCATION: The only educational program at present in operation is for training of refugee nurses. The classes are conducted through an interpreter, by Miss Ruth Faust of the Near East Foundation. Trainees work 5 hours and have 2-hour classes. Demonstration of nursing procedures is given by one of the British nurses. Two groups a day are taught. Red Cross trainees are also being taught at the camp. Lectures have been given on communicable diseases.

REFUGEE SELF-GOVERNMENT: Refugees are given the opportunity to voice grievances or dissatisfaction with camp management, and to advance suggestions pertaining to the management. They elect their own committees

IDENTIFICATION OF REFUGEES: MERRA identity documents are used.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON REFUGEE MORALE: Refugee leadership is active and well-developed.