

BELGIUM

Sinistres

*War damage etc*



9203R Third Cut

PARCELS FOR BELGIUM

AGENCY OF THE BELGIAN WAR RELIEF SOCIETY, INCORPORATED, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
PARTICIPANT IN NATIONAL WAR FUND  
(FORMERLY PARCELS FOR BELGIAN PRISONERS)  
2101 LEROY PLACE, N. W.  
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
MISS MARTHA DECLERCO

February 14, 1946.

*OCMA -*  
Mr. ~~Edward B. Williams~~, Director  
U.N.R.R.A.  
1344 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Williams:

*ack*  
I have your letter of February 12th and  
am sending it at once to our Committee in  
Brussels, in the hope that they may be able to  
help this pitiful case.

With appreciation for your interest in  
our country.

Yours sincerely,

*A. E. E. E. E.*

President  
of the Executive Committee

43898



Belgium - Simister

C  
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Y

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

NUMBER : 4615  
TO : London  
RECEIVED : 18 September 1945 - 10:20 a.m.  
DISPATCHED: 18 September 1945 - 10:30 a.m.

Clear

Immediate priority.

Further your 3854 our 3458.

Re: allocations of clothing from two U.S. drives. Please substitute following figures in pounds for those given paragraph 7 your 3854:

Country	Total Allocation	Consigned to Gov'ts as of 31 August	To be turned over to Gov'ts in Sept. & Oct.
Belgium- Luxembourg	3,630,000	3,360,000	-
France	8,400,000	7,700,000	700,000
Netherlands	4,750,000	2,750,000	2,000,000
Norway	1,000,000	500,000	500,000

Drafted by:  
JSmith (Supply)  
17 September 1945

PARCELS FOR BELGIAN PRISONERS

1780 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

2101 LEROY PLACE, N. W.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.



Mr. Edward B. Williams, Director  
U. N. R. R. A.  
1344 Conn. Ave., N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C..

C  
O  
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Y

*Belgium  
(Sint-Truiden)*

**OUTGOING TELEGRAM**

NUMBER : 4588  
TO : London  
REPEATED : Brussels; Luxembourg  
RECEIVED : 17 September 1945  
DISPATCHED: 17 September 1945 - 6:15 p.m.

Clear

Further our 3759 re shipments used clothing to Belgium and Luxembourg:

1. All shipments for Belgium and Luxembourg consigned to representatives Belgian Government in US.
2. It is understood that 10% of all clothing shipped should be delivered to Luxembourg by the Belgian Government after arrival in Belgium.
3. Total allocation for Belgium and Luxembourg 3 million pounds. Of this total, 300,000 pounds should be turned over to Luxembourg by Belgian Government.
4. First shipment of approximately 316,280 pounds loaded in New York City around 20 June should have cleared by 1 July. Second shipment of approximately 1,576,190 pounds loaded in New York around 15 August. Third shipment approximately 1,205,950 pounds loading 28 September New York City. Total clothing called forward for shipment 3,098,420 pounds.
5. Advise what steps taken by Belgian Government to deliver clothing to Luxembourg Government.

Drafted by:  
HShaw(Supply)  
13 September 1945



22 June 1945

TO: George Xanthaky  
FROM: Louis R. Franck  
SUBJECT: Contributed Clothing for Luxembourg

London Cable #1584 dated June 18, 1945 states that the Luxembourg Government is pressing for a ruling on their portion of 300 tons of clothing handed by Headquarters to the representatives in USA of the Belgian Government.

Luxembourg and Belgium are in a custom's union and up to now the Belgian Purchasing Mission has always taken care of the needs of Luxembourg in joint programs of supplies; this explains why the Bureau of Supply in its allocation of used clothing has not made any breakdown for Luxembourg but only a joint allocation for both. This allocation was 600,000 pounds after the first drive, 1,500,000 pounds from the first slice of the second drive.

It seems to me, chiefly in view of the cable from London, that we have here some responsibility in making sure that Luxembourg receives its fair share of this used clothing. We should try to split the allocation into two parts, to Belgium and to Luxembourg.

I have immediately called the attention of the clothing and footwear Division and of the Welfare people to that problem and I have suggested that we meet first between ourselves and then with representatives of both Governments to decide on the allocation for each country.

I will keep you informed of further developments.

Subcommittee on Welfare  
for Europe

TWE/E

+ please accept

in Belgian Ministry

TWE/E(45)20  
8 May 1945  
RESTRICTED

Aska copy  
from  
Mr.  
Randolph

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WELFARE FOR EUROPE

WELFARE SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Emergency Relief Services

At the end of January two Queens Messenger Feeding Convoys were loaned by UNRRA to the Belgian Government to work under the direction of the Commissioner for Civil Defence. The convoys were intended to help in the provision of emergency meals to homeless persons in the Belgian towns which were then under attack from the V1 and V2 weapons. Two UNRRA technicians were loaned with the vehicles; a mechanic, Mr. Marek, whose services were made available by the Displaced Persons Division, and an emergency feeding specialist, Mrs. Anstead Browne, working under the direction of the Welfare Division. The convoys were staffed by Belgian "Secouristes" who were recruited and trained in England for this work.

A report on the convoy working at Antwerp states that it has covered an average of 750 km. a week and distributed a weekly average of:

Bowls of soup	1,261
Stew	560
Coffee	1,795 cups
Cocoa	1,675 "
Tea	225 "
Milk (for babies)	50 "
Biscuits	101 kilograms
Bread	72 "

The period of loan having been completed these convoys have now been transferred for service in the displaced persons operation.

Two additional Queens Messenger convoys have been made available to UNRRA by the Ministry of Food. These will be diluted by the addition of extra vehicles and equipment and will be divided into four mobile feeding columns. One of these columns, together with an UNRRA technician, has been made available to the Norwegian Government for work in Finnmark. The Norwegian Government have asked further for the loan of ten mobile feeding units for emergency relief work in Southern Norway - particularly for refugees and homeless. These mobile columns will comprise two three-ton lorries, and the necessary feeding equipment to supply 1,000 persons on the basis of two sittings of 500 each. The equipment will include the majority of the items embodied in the standard list approved by Expert Commission II with the addition of other equipment which experience has shown to be necessary.



b. Lunders

Excerpt from ERO Welfare Intelligence Bulletin (WE 29)  
No. 11 - 18 April 1945

Numbers Homeless

The High Commissioner for the Civil Defence reports that there are at present 200,000 Belgians without homes, and that this number includes 90,000 children. According to published figures, 27 per cent of the people of one town are living in cellars; 20 per cent have lost everything, and 30 percent have lost most of their belongings. In the same town 28 per cent of the houses are entirely destroyed, and 9.5 per cent are damaged but repairable.

It is impossible as yet to give even approximate figures of the monetary liability represented by war damage in Belgium as a whole. To take only one detail, the National Fund for the Relief of War Victims spent 400,000,000 Fr. in 1944 on providing a few clothes for the stricken people, and in enabling them to scrape temporary homes together, with some cooking utensils and bedding.



*Belgian Minister*

Excerpt from ERO Progress Report for  
the week ending 23 April 1945

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

(ix) Queen's Messenger Convoys

The British Ministry of Food have been asked to clarify the terms on which the Queen's Messenger Convoys were handed over to UNRRA. Previous correspondence has not made it clear whether they are an outright gift, or whether they will be debited against the United Kingdom contribution.

Excerpt from ERO Notes for the Week ending 24 March 1945

## PRESENT UNRRA OPERATIONS IN EUROPE

### Western European Countries

France - An UNRRA Mission had been operating in France since last December, and its officers had established close contact with French Government officials concerning problems of health, welfare, displaced persons and general relief needs. They had made a number of surveys of conditions in the most distressed regions.

Belgium - It had not yet been possible to arrange the despatch of the UNRRA Mission to Belgium, which was still within the sphere of military operations. A health liaison officer had, however, been able to make useful preliminary surveys, and a special UNRRA representative had been in Belgium to survey general conditions. At the request of the Government, UNRRA proposed to transfer six flying squads, complete with equipment and personnel, subject to satisfactory agreement with SHAEF. Two Queen's Messenger Convoys given to UNRRA by the British Ministry of Food had already been loaned to the Government, together with UNRRA technical experts.



*Sensitive*

Excerpt from Special Mission  
Report No. I - From Samson - Luxembourg

April 7, 1945

It is our understanding that the first shipment in Luxembourg Vehicles which was agreed to as a meeting of the Welfare and Supply Division with Mr. Kennedy as Sir Hubert Young's representative (the meeting Your Excellency and Mr. Clasen attended in London) will in all probability consist of 5 tons baby food, 1 1/2 tons cod liver oil, 1 medical unit, 5 tons soap, 10 tons used clothing (not the 30 tons of US Church collection clothing now in Antwerp) and 20,000 (5 tons) overalls or coveralls for workers.

This 30 1/2 tons is intended only to satisfy the most immediate needs. Emergency relief shipments totalling 212 tons which are regarded by Sir George Reid as reasonable in relation to the Luxembourg requirements (of which the 30 1/2 tons is apparently a part) include 50 tons of baby food, based on the needs of the total age group (1-3 years), 1 1/2 tons cod liver oil, based on total children population, 4 tons medical supplies, 15 tons (20,000 pairs) children's shoes, 18 tons (15,000 pairs workers' shoes (men) and 4 tons (4,500 pairs) workers' shoes (women), 5 tons flat rubber for mending soles (for 3 months), 100 tons clothing (with, we hope, the emphasis on men's suits in accordance with present needs), 15 tons of soap and such household good for 15,000 households as may be obtainable.

It is further understood that Your Excellency's Government will submit further details on your request for Vitiminized Products for 60,000 children.

Since this is the first emergency relief programme advanced in Western Europe under the resolution of the Central Committee adopted on February 26th and since some of these supplies may have to be obtained overseas, it is understood that delays are possible and that a complete shipment should not be expected at one time. It is our hope, however, that this first transaction can be expedited both in London and Washington since we recognize that the need is urgent as a result of the devastation and suffering experienced in the Grand-Duchy since the von Rundstedt offensive which started on December 16th 1944.

Colonel FRASER is in agreement with this programme and has agreed to call forward the entire 212 1/2 tons. If the 30 1/2 tons have already been transported by Luxembourg vehicles from Great Britain, the balance may be shipped, when ready, under the call-forward from Comm Zone, preferably through 21st Army Group.

It is our understanding also that the distribution of the above mentioned emergency relief supplies will be made by the Luxembourg Red Cross, after clearance with Government Supply agencies, and under the general supervision of the <sup>UN</sup> RRA Mission accredited to Your Excellency's Government.



*Frank*

*U.N.R.R.A. Help to Belgian*

*Review*

11 Portland Place  
W.1.  
22nd March, 1945.

NO. Y4

TO: Secretary - Administrative Council  
European Regional Office.

FROM: Sir Hubert Young, Special Commissioner.

I arrived in Brussels on Wednesday the 7th March, travelling in the same air-craft as the Chief of the S.H.A.E.F. Mission to the Netherlands (Netherlands Mission), who was kind enough to put me in touch at once with the Chief of the S.H.A.E.F. Mission to Belgium (Belgian Mission). I explained to both these officers that I had been placed in charge of the emergency relief programme authorised by the Central Committee in its resolution of the 26th February and that I was anxious to find out as soon as possible whether any assistance from U.N.R.R.A. in the form of emergency welfare supplies would be welcome to the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands in order that I might include them in my programme. I said that I fully realised that the liberated areas in Belgium and the Netherlands were at present military areas and that there was no question of U.N.R.R.A. undertaking any operations in respect of them, so long as this was the case, unless desired to do so by the military authorities. At the same time it seemed clear that the precedent set in France would at some time be followed, and primary responsibility for relief be entrusted to the government concerned. This being so, it seemed desirable for U.N.R.R.A. to become acquainted as soon as possible with local conditions. The Netherlands Government in London had furnished me with a letter of introduction to the Chief of Staff of the Netherlands Military Administration (N.M.A.) and with an official request to the Netherlands Authorities in general to give me every possible help in obtaining as complete a picture as possible of conditions in liberated territory. The Belgian Government had been informed by the Belgian Ambassador in London of my proposed visit, and I had understood from him that similar facilities would be given to me in liberated Belgium. In view, however, of the terms of the reply that had been received by the E.R.O. from the S.H.A.E.F. Mission to Belgium to their request for approval to my visit, I did not propose to call upon any civil authorities unless authorised to do so. As soon as I had made the position clear, immediate steps were taken to obtain from S.H.A.E.F. the necessary authority to facilitate my enquiries. It will appear from what follows that I have received all possible help not only from the Chiefs of the two Missions and their Staff Officers, with whom I have worked in the closest co-operation, but also from all other Allied Military Officers with whom I have been brought into contact, and I wish to record here my deep appreciation of their unfailing courtesy and hospitality.

2. I spent the 8th March in establishing contacts with the Chiefs of the G-5 branches of the two Missions and of the Civil Affairs Section of the 21st Army Group. On the following day I was taken by officers of the Belgian Mission to Louvain, Spa, Liege, Malmedy and Stavelot. The 10th was spent in visiting Walcheren Island with the Netherlands Mission, who kindly arranged for me to accompany the Deputy Prime Minister's party; this gave me an opportunity of passing through Antwerp and seeing Middelburg, Flushing and Serooskerke. On the 11th I worked with both Netherlands and Belgian Missions, and also with the N.M.A. and the Allied Military Staff responsible for certain future operations. On the 12th, after again seeing Civil Affairs Officers of 21st Army Group, I accompanied the Head of the G-5 Section of the Netherlands Mission to Maastricht, Roermond, and Eindhoven, where I saw officials of the Netherlands Government and the N.M.A. and spent the night. Next day we visited Weert and Venlo, passed through an area of occupied German territory, re-visited Roermond and Maastricht, where we had spent some time the previous day, and returned to Brussels by way of Namur. On the 14th I worked with the U.N.R.R.A. officers attached to the Belgian Mission till mid-day and then drove, accompanied by one of them, to an Army Headquarters in France where I saw the Chief of G-5 of the 12th Army Group and of the Communications Zone and spent the night. Next day I returned to Brussels via Luxembourg, where I saw the Chief of the S.H.A.E.F. Mission to



Luxembourg and the Repatriation Commissioner of the Luxembourg Government. In the afternoon, I had a final talk with the Chief of the Belgian Mission and visited the Belgian High Commissioners for Repatriation and Relief. On the 16th, I visited Antwerp to observe local conditions and to see the working of the U.N.R.R.A. Queen's Messenger Convoy. I returned to London in the evening after a final talk with the Chief of the Dutch Mission.

3. The position in the liberated areas of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg differs from that in Normandy in many respects. In the first place, these areas are all operational areas; no interior zone has been set up, and the Governments are not even secondarily responsible for planning and importing relief supplies. At the same time, it is the policy of the Supreme Commander to make as much use as possible of the local civil machinery for the purpose of civil administration. Imported supplies of food and such other commodities as it has been found possible to introduce are handed over to the civil authorities for distribution. Practically all imports for the civil population come through one port, which is entirely under military control. Even the shipping which is allocated to the two governments is handled by the military authorities, and the civil supply programme is called forward by the military supply authorities. There is thus no question of supplementary relief supplies of the nature contemplated in the U.N.R.R.A. Central Committee Resolution reaching the liberated areas of Belgium or the Netherlands in any other way than as part of the military supply programme. Another radical difference between conditions in Normandy and in the areas under review is that, in the latter, Civil Affairs detachments are in full operation, none having been withdrawn. There is therefore the closest liaison at every point between the military and the civil authorities. Four Party Conferences exist in the Netherlands and Belgium at which the import programme of civil supplies is considered by representatives of the S.H.A.E.F. Missions to the Governments concerned, representatives of the Governments themselves, and representatives of the United States and United Kingdom Supply Agencies. The programmes made out at these Conferences are, however, not immediate programmes, nor do they comprise anything like the full requirements of the Civil Governments. The policy of the military authorities has always been to bring in relief supplies only to the extent necessary to prevent disease and unrest from interfering with military operations and in this they have undoubtedly been successful, in spite of the enormous pressure upon shipping space involved in purely military demands and the adverse circumstances against which the military supply authorities have had to contend. This is not to say, however, that there is no room for the kind of supplementary help contemplated in the Central Committee Resolution of the 26th February. Not only has the effect of the military operations been to interfere very seriously with all means of internal communication and distribution, but the Governments of the liberated areas, composed as they are in many cases of officials with no great administrative experience, are not always capable of making the best use of bulk supplies placed at their disposal. Actual military demands may still at any time dislocate internal transport programmes by rail, road and water and the effect has occasionally been that in certain parts of the liberated areas even the minimum calculated by the military supply authorities as being necessary for the prevention of disease and unrest has not found its way to those for whom it is intended. It should be remembered that the Governments have no reserve upon which to draw to meet the needs of civilians in exceptionally devastated areas and that Displaced Persons may well be thrown on their hands in numbers greater than those for which their needs were originally calculated. Doubts may also arise, when armies move, as to the actual responsibility for providing supplies for a Displaced Persons Transit Centre. No pains are spared by the Officers of the S.H.A.E.F. Missions to straighten out any difficulties of this kind, but I received the impression from those with whom I discussed the matter that there was in their opinion ample scope for supplementary help of the nature outlined below.

4. I have already made it clear that the military authorities, in consultation with the Governments concerned, are importing relief supplies to an extent calculated by them to be sufficient to preclude disease and unrest among the civil population. The commodities included in the military civil supply programme are food, clothing and footwear, medical supplies, etc., for the majority of which the British armies are responsible in the areas under review though a considerable



quantity has also been imported by the American Armies. Disease and unrest have, as I have said above, undoubtedly been prevented, but only by a narrow margin in certain districts. When the estimates of civil requirements for the military period were originally presented to the military authorities, they were based not merely upon the prevention of disease and unrest, but also upon the maintenance of at least as high a standard in liberated territories as that prevailing under enemy occupation. The decision whether this standard should be aimed at or not is of course a matter for the military authorities, and in any case its attainment during the military period is not the function of U.N.R.R.A. What is, or might be the function of U.N.R.R.A. is to supplement the programme of the military supply authorities to a certain extent and within clearly defined limits. It would obviously be undesirable for U.N.R.R.A. to compete with the military supply authorities, either for supplies or for shipping or transport facilities, in order to supplement the military supply programme. The Special Emergency Programme in the case of Military areas must accordingly be worked out in consultation with the military authorities, and the consignments called forward either by them or by the governments concerned with their concurrence. It is equally undesirable that the Special Emergency Programme should deal with the type of relief supplies actually being dealt with either by the military authorities or by the governments concerned except in special cases where it might prove possible with the approval of the military authorities to provide small consignments of these commodities addressed to specific local authorities at specific places. It is important that U.N.R.R.A. Emergency Relief should not be confused with or engulfed into the main civil supply programme. There are three ways of preventing this. The first is by limiting the U.N.R.R.A. programme to items which are not included in the main programme; the second is by consigning U.N.R.R.A. supplies to specific consignees such as the H.A.R.K. in the Netherlands and Entr'Aide in France, or to specific destinations by such special means of transport as are discussed below; and the third is by ensuring, through the medium of U.N.R.R.A. personnel, that U.N.R.R.A. emergency relief reached only the persons for whom it is intended. It is essential that agreement should be reached on these three points with the authorities concerned as soon as possible.

5. I do not propose, in this report, to attempt to describe in detail the conditions in any part of the area traversed in the course of my brief tour, but only to give a general picture in order to assist the Council in laying down the general lines upon which the Special Emergency Programme is to be formulated.

The Resolution of the 26th February contemplates the Administration providing special and supplementary relief in districts in which immediate distress exists, and it was to these districts that I directed my attention during my tour. In the liberated areas of the Netherlands, these "sore spots" fall under two main categories; the areas which have been subjected to flooding, either by our own or enemy action, and those over which the fighting has passed, and in which there has been very heavy destruction in consequence of military operations. In the flooded areas, the normal military supply programme is being faithfully carried out, and the inhabitants are receiving the same rations as those in other parts of the liberated area. The Netherlands Military Administration is working efficiently, black market conditions hardly exist, and if it were not for the exceptional conditions in which the people are living, there would be no reason to take any special emergency measures. The conditions in which the people are living are, however, exceptionally miserable. Those of them who have not been evacuated are living on the tiny islands formed by the towns and villages, which are always built on rather higher ground, and are almost completely cut off from communication with the outside world. It is true that you can see a few horse-drawn carts splashing along the roads through two or three feet of water laden with the few chattels which some unfortunate person has been able to recover from his flooded dwelling, but apart from the military convoys which bring in ration supplies in bulk, there is practically no transport working along these flooded roads at all. In the areas over which fighting has passed, the inhabitants are also receiving the same rations as those in other parts of the liberated area, but here again the conditions in which they are living are exceptionally miserable. In Venlo and Roermond the percentage of houses rendered uninhabitable is something in the neighbourhood of 90%. Public utilities are not yet restored, shops are not open and the people are temporarily deprived of practically everything that makes life worth living. The eye rests



with relief on the very small number of undamaged houses in this scene of fantastic desolation, twisted girders, mountains of rubble, water-filled bomb craters, smashed windows, crumbled and stripped roofs with the tiles all swept down into a huddled heap above the parapets as if by a huge brush.

In Belgium the "sore spots" also fell under two main categories of which the first comprises Antwerp where V.l. bombs are still falling and parts of Brussels and Liege which are at present being spared. In Liege eighty thousand houses were damaged of which about twelve hundred a week are being repaired. The damage in Antwerp is considerably greater than that in Liege, and the conditions there are exactly those for which the canteens which form the Queen's Messenger Convoy were intended in the United Kingdom, an additional argument for using special equipment and supplies needed to stock them. The second category of "sore spots" in Belgium comprises such towns as Malmédy and Stavelot, which were subjected either to severe bombing or shellfire or both. Fifty per cent of the houses in Malmédy as well as the whole of the business section is completely destroyed and the population is actually more than the normal so that there is much overcrowding and distress. One hundred and forty-six persons were buried up to the beginning of this year and at that time it was estimated that there were one hundred more bodies still in the debris. At Stavelot there is practically not a single house undamaged and in spite of the efforts of the civil affairs detachment at Malmédy, whose commander is also responsible for Stavelot, there is undoubtedly a good deal of supplementary relief work that might be done.

I was not able to visit the "sore spots" in Luxembourg, but I was told when I passed through the Duchy that in a number of towns and villages such as Diekirch, Echternach, Wiltz, Grovenmacher and Remich, ninety-five percent of the houses have been damaged, thirty percent being totally destroyed. Luxembourg has suffered exceptional distress, not only in consequence of the preliminary evacuation ordered by the Allied Command (seventy thousand out of a population of two hundred and fifty thousand had to move), but also by the irruption of Rundstedt's attack and the excesses of the German troops when they subsequently withdrew. The areas through which the Germans passed were not only systematically looted when they came in but finally stripped not only of food, but also of footwear, cooking utensils, etc. when they went out. There is no doubt that U.N.R.R.A. assistance will be welcome to the three Governments concerned in respect of the population of these "sore spots."

6. The Displaced Persons in the areas covered by this report are at present the responsibility of the Military authorities. I saw at Roermond and Venlo the arrangements made for their reception and it may be of interest to give the composition of the first eight hundred who passed through Venlo, which was as follows:-

Dutch	538
Russian	113
Belgian	61
Polos	37
French	21
Italian	10
Yugoslav	8
Luxembourgcois	3
Czech, Albanian, Greek,	
Lett and American (1 each)	5
Other nationalities	4
Total	800

It was not possible to say what the other four nationalities were but the Lett was being asked to find out.

About seven per cent of these Displaced Persons were women and children. There had been only four hospital cases and one child had died. There is, I think, little doubt that when the time comes for the Governments concerned to be entrusted with responsibility for Displaced Persons, there will be scope for assistance from U.N.R.R.A. on the same lines as that recently accepted by the French Government.



7. There are two spheres in which U.N.R.R.A. assistance would undoubtedly be welcome to the local military supply authorities themselves, as distinct from the Missions and the local governments. The first is that of the Displaced Persons who will be uncovered and with whom it will be necessary to deal in occupied Germany. I was told by the officer responsible to one military formation for the supply programme for these persons that certain supplementary supplies which are not included in the military supply programme, would be of the greatest assistance. Arrangements could no doubt be made for any such supplementary supplies to be made available to Displaced Persons centres at which U.N.R.R.A. teams are operating. The proposal has gone forward to higher authority and it is possible that the Administration may be invited to assist in this way.

The second sphere in which U.N.R.R.A. assistance would be welcome to the military supply authorities is in the preparation of the necessary stockpile of civilian supplies for areas not yet liberated in which conditions are known to be bad. Here again, as in the case of supplementary requirements for "sore spots," the suggestion is that supplementary supplies should be confined to those which are not being stockpiled by the Army, but of which there will undoubtedly be great need. A certain proportion of the civil population in the areas yet to be liberated is known to be living in starvation conditions. Some of the items which go to make up the special diets already worked out by the Administration for the relief of persons in this condition do not form part of the military supply programme, and if the Administration can be of assistance in planning and providing the necessary additional stocks, it will undoubtedly fulfill one of the objects which the Resolution of the 26th February was intended to secure.

A list of the supplementary supplies suggested for these two purposes is given in the Appendix.

8. The Resolution of the 26th February referred not only to supplies but also to services. I had the opportunity of seeing the work of a Queen's Messenger Convoy in a specially devastated area which was still subject to enemy action, and have no doubt that the extension of this form of assistance would be most welcome. The particular Queen's Messenger Convoy which I had the privilege of seeing at work was one of which the equipment had been loaned by the Administration to the Government concerned, and the team, which was composed partly of British and partly of local personnel, had been recruited by that Government with the help of the Administration. An agreement governing the loan of the equipment had laid down that the Government accepted full responsibility for the supply and maintenance of the Convoy, but owing to the circumstances outlined in paragraph 3 above it, it had not always been possible for this undertaking to be fully implemented. The Convoy was actually reduced to a point where it was not possible for relief to be distributed on the scale which was considered necessary for more than a few more days, and some reduction would have been inevitable if prompt action had not been taken. This appeared to me so clearly to be one of the cases covered by the Resolution of 26th February that I made immediate arrangements on my return to London, in anticipation of the Council's approval, for the collection of 30 tons of miscellaneous supplies, and informed the military authority concerned that they would be ready to be called forward in a week's time. This was one of the cases where the supplementary assistance to be given by the Administration was not confined to items outside the ordinary military supply programme, though it did include a number of such items. The condition, which I have suggested in paragraph 4 above, that in no case should any supplementary supplies of the same nature as those included in the military supply programme be provided by the Administration except under guarantee that they will be applied solely to the special conditions for which they are intended was fulfilled in this case by addressing the consignment to the local authority concerned, and informing both the S.H.A.E.F. Mission and the leader of the Convoy that this was being done. The responsible Minister of the Government concerned had already given me a very definite undertaking that any consignments so addressed would not find their way into the main supply pipe-line, and I am confident that this undertaking will be scrupulously observed.



9. A suggestion was made to me that either the Netherlands Military Administration or the Military Authorities themselves might welcome special U.N.R.R.A. teams to deal with the exceptional conditions which it is anticipated will be found in that part of the Netherlands which has not yet been liberated. I discussed this question with the Dutch Authorities at Eindhoven, and understood from them that it was more likely that individuals rather than teams would be welcome, but that some help would certainly be needed. Combined teams are being organized by the British and Netherlands Red Cross Societies and it might be possible for any U.N.R.R.A. personnel who could be made available to be drafted into these teams. The U.N.R.R.A. Health Liaison Officer at Brussels anticipated that, over and above the forty doctors and forty nurses whom he is recruiting for Displaced Persons, he should be able to recruit ten doctors and ten nurses on the same terms if they were required for work in this area. This is a matter which might be discussed with the responsible authorities.

10. Reference has been made in paragraph 4 above to the possible employment of special means of transport as a way of ensuring that U.N.R.R.A. Emergency relief should reach the persons for whom it is intended. It is unnecessary to enlarge here upon the shipping and inland transport difficulties which beset any import or distribution programme in the areas covered by this report. For the purposes of the emergency relief programme it is enough to suggest two possible methods of overcoming them. The first is by the employment of some system of air transport to selected centres in the neighbourhood of "sore spots." This has much to recommend it, the chief advantages being the speed and directness with which consignments can be carried, the avoiding of double or treble handling and the possibility of using simple containers, such as palliasses cases for clothing, and even of loading without containers at all, as in the case of blankets, bivouac tents, outboard motors and the like. The only disadvantage is expense, and this would in many cases be outweighed by the advantages. Another possible method might be some system of transporting loaded lorries and returning empties in landing craft. This system would have the same advantages as the use of air transport. The main disadvantage would be the necessity for setting up a transport organization to work it.

11. I have said in paragraph 3 that the Joint Supply problem is being dealt with by the Military Authorities in consultation with the National Government by means of the Four Party Conferences, and I do not suggest that there is any executive function that the Administration could usefully fulfill in this respect, since it is clearly desirable that there should be no over-lapping or confusion of function. It is, however, very desirable, in order to secure this, that the Administration should be taken fully into the confidence of both the Military Authorities and of the Government concerned. There cannot fail to be a very close relation between the problems which are being dealt with on the one hand by the Military Authorities in consultation with the Governments, namely, the joint supply arrangements, and those with which the Administration will be charged in carrying out the Special Emergency Programme. If it is accepted that this Programme should be limited in the manner which I have suggested in paragraph 3 it is of vital importance that the Council should know exactly what is being done and contemplated by the Military Authorities. This end could well be achieved by the addition of the necessary U.N.R.R.A. representation to the Four Party Conferences, and I strongly recommend, as I have already done in the case of France, that any invitation to participate should be accepted. I am told that one of these Conferences is already beginning to form Sub-Committees to deal with the various relief commodities, and it appears to me that investigations and estimates which have already been made by U.N.R.R.A. should be of great assistance to these bodies in arriving at their own results.

12. I have had some difficulty in drafting this report in time for its consideration by the Council at its meeting of the 22nd March since there has been some delay in the arrival of my notes and papers. I shall, however, be glad to answer any questions and to submit any further report that may be desired.



APPENDIX

SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLIES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY  
MILITARY SUPPLY AUTHORITIES

- (a) clothing and footwear items not included in normal demands;
- (b) blankets and paper sleeping bags;
- (c) any other clothing items such as used garments contributed for relief in the U.K. which are now, or will shortly be, found to be surplus;
- (d) tents and bivouacs;
- (e) sewing and mending material;
- (f) food items not included in normal demands;
- (g) items of medical supplies and comforts not included in normal demands;
- (h) miscellaneous items of a type required for camps containing large numbers of DP's of both sexes, and all ages and nationalities.



*Belgian  
Suisse*

72nd Meeting

Excerpt from UNRRA ERO  
Minutes of Meeting of the Administrative Council  
6th April 1945

3. Queen's Messenger Convoys

Mr. Herbert reported that, of the Queen's Messenger Convoys remaining in the hands of the Ministry of Food, 7 had been provisionally earmarked by them for the Far East but there was a possibility that 2 more might be made available to UNRRA. These 2 might be extended to 4 by dilution with additional vehicles.

It was agreed that in this event half the convoys should be sent to Yugoslavia, and the other half remain unallocated until personnel could be sent.

Excerpt from Supply Report for Week  
Ending 23 March 1945

*Belg.  
Sinnistre*

(e) Queen's Messenger Convoys operating in Antwerp Region

In answer to the request made to Sir Hubert Young by the Haut Commissaire pour la Defense des Population Civiles, Antwerp, arrangements have been made to send the following food supplies in order that the Queen's Messenger Convoys operating in the Antwerp region under the greatest difficulties may be able to continue their work:

Coffee	5 tons
Skimmed Milk Powder	1 ton
Evaporated Full Cream Milk	2 tons
Margarine	4 tons
Meat Roll	3 tons
Sugar	3 tons
Biscuits	3 tons
Dehyd. Mutton	2 tons
Soap	1½ tons
Cow & Goat Milk Food	500 lbs.
Dehydrated Veg. Soups	3 tons

(d) Luxembourg

As a result of the meeting held on 17th March with the Luxembourg Minister in London and further consideration of the question by the competent Divisions, arrangements have now been made by the Food Division to make the following items available for the first emergency shipment for the devastated regions of Luxembourg.

Full Cream Evaporated Milk	4½ tons
Cod liver Oil	1½ "
Cow & Goat milk food	½ "
Soap	5 "



*Belg. Service*

Excerpt from Supply Report for Week Ending  
23 March 1945

2. 20 Preliminary Flying Squads

Additional equipment is required for the 6 flying squads which are supposed to leave shortly for Belgium. We need additional equipment for the remaining flying squads and therefore we submitted a preliminary enquiry for the total of 20. Covering letter has been sent to Mr. Dyson asking him to speed up delivery.

3. Two Queen's Messenger Convoys Lent to Belgians

Additional equipment was delivered from the Ministry of Works during the week. A Firm Request will be submitted to the Ministry of Production later. A purchase Order for slates and chalks has been placed ~~amounting~~ amounting to £2.0.0d., as these could not be supplied by the Ministry of Works.

*Sinistres*

Excerpt from WELFARE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

No. 7 - 20th February 1945

Conditions in the Province of Luxembourg (Belgium)

The state of distress is "indescribable". Out of 90,000 inhabitants of the Ardennes affected by military operations, 25,000 have no homes at all and 90,000 have homes that are damaged. One-third of the total number of families will be able to restore their homes in time, but the rest are destitute.

The "Comite National de Secours" estimates that, to meet the needs for one month, 100 tons of fats, 400 tons of meat and 200 tons of tinned food will be required, together with 25,000 mattresses, 150,000 blankets and 75,000 pairs of sheets to replaced bedding stolen by the Germans. Most of the refugees need shoes and clothes.



*Belgian Sinistres*

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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April 6th, 1945.

**200,000 BELGIANS HOMELESS**  
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The High Commissariat for the Defence of the Civilian Population reports that there are at present 200,000 Belgians without homes, and that this number includes 90,000 children.

In the eight months that culminated in the liberation, 4,634 Belgians were killed and 6,156 wounded by Allied bombs. The number of houses destroyed in the same period was 12,314, and 38,935 were damaged.

Since the liberation, certain towns in Belgium have been subjected to intensive aerial bombardment by the enemy, and this has claimed an equal or even greater toll in casualties. In some urban centres, so many people have been bombed out that the inhabitants have had to live in cellars or railway tunnels, or in the underground galleries of coalmines. According to the published figures, 27 per cent of the people of one town are living in cellars; 20 per cent have lost everything, and 30 per cent have lost most of their belongings. In that town 28 per cent of the houses are entirely destroyed, and 9½ per cent are damaged but repairable.

In the Ardennes, where about thirty towns and villages were reduced to ruins during the Rundstedt offensive, the number of civilians killed is smaller than was expected, considering the extent of the devastated area: the first estimates put it at 900 persons.

While the counter-offensive was in progress the Nazis shot women and children, carried off a large number of men, and pillaged the houses and farms in the battle area. More than two-thirds of the cattle disappeared. The farmers, moreover, have had to slaughter some of the animals that escaped destruction in the bombardment, because they could not feed them.

The Ardennes, an essentially agricultural region, used to make an important contribution to the country's food supplies. To-day, its production may perhaps be sufficient to meet the needs of the local population, although the growers are still short of horses, agricultural machinery and seed and the fields have not yet been entirely cleared of mines.

The work of mine clearance is also important from the public health point of view for the presence of mines is preventing the burial of hundreds of corpses, 300 of which, it is believed, lie hidden in the ruins of St.Vith.



It is impossible as yet to give even approximate figures of the monetary liability represented by war damage in Belgium as a whole. To take only one detail, the National Fund for the Relief of War Victims spent 400,000,000 francs in 1944 on providing a few clothes for the stricken people and enabling them to scrape temporary homes together with some cooking utensils and bedding. (INBEL, 6/4/45).

#### RAW MATERIALS REACHING BELGIUM

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The arrival in Belgium of several important consignments of raw materials is announced.

M. Van Acker, the Prime Minister, recently told the Chamber of Representatives that, whereas Belgian imports amounted to 100,000 tons a day before the war and 25,000 tons a day during the German occupation, only 200,000 tons had been received in the first five months after the liberation. He added, however, that the situation was improving.

The Minister of Economic Affairs now states that the improvement is appreciable in the matter of industrial raw materials, especially textiles. The position in the principal branches of the textile industry is summarized as follows:

The import of 6,000 tons of cotton had been planned. Up to now 2,700 tons has been delivered. Besides this, the British and American authorities have placed an order, through the Office of Mutual Aid, for the manufacture in Belgian factories of 2,000 tons of cotton goods a month on their behalf. A considerable revival of activity is therefore expected in this section.

It is stated at the Ministry of Economic Affairs that the linen industry can count on the import in the near future of 1,000 tons of flax from Great Britain. This consignment is earmarked for the fulfilment of orders in hand for the British Ministry of Supply.

Eight hundred tons of wool has been unloaded in the port of Ghent, and other wool cargoes have been discharged at Antwerp.

The Belgian Congo has been enabled to deliver to Belgium 1,000 tons of jute. In addition, 1,000 tons of sisal has been distributed among manufacturers in the neighbourhood of Hamme for the execution of Allied orders. (INBEL, 6/4/45).

#### TELEPHOTOGRAPHY WITH THE CONGO

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It is reported from Leopoldville, capital of the Belgian Congo, that the Telecommunications service there, in collaboration with the United States Office of War Information, is making experiments in telephotographic transmission from the Congo to Belgium. (INBEL, 6/4/45).