

Camps Division - Main Series - Welfare in Camps - Jolumbat

PLEASE RETAIN  
ORIGINAL ORDER

Ann

UN ARCHIVES

SERIES 0527  
BOX 306  
FILE S-1311-0000-0176  
ACC.

24 August 1944

Ref. 211/9

TO: Major Warnford Davies.  
FROM: H. Greenstein, Director of Welfare.

Thank you very much for your memo of August 18th, Ref. No 4/543.

1. Community Centre

We have passed on a copy of your suggestions to Lt. Col. Tobey who is in charge of Supplies at Camp's Division.

We have made the following comments:

Chairs - We think that canvas chairs, if available, may be more suitable than wicker-chairs.

Books - Books in Serbo-Croat are not yet available in the Middle East, but refugees at El Shatt are attempting to produce some translations. We are writing to the United States suggesting that some of the Yugoslav communities there supply this need.

Sewing centre- We do not think that sewing centre should be part of the community centre, but should be separate. Is this your intention?

2. Canteen

As you probably know, Camp's Division is working out plans for pocket-money and use of canteens.

As soon as a decision is made you will be notified.

3. Children's Nursery

We are glad that you have set this building aside. The arrangements for furnishing are being considered by Lt. Col. Tobey.

4. Crèches for Children

We agree with Lady Killearn, and have passed on the suggestion about special beds for the children.

5. Purchase of Requirements

Authorities for local purchase is a matter for Camp's Division, and the question has been passed to them. I understand that an agreement has been reached with Lady Killearn.

Copy to Lady Killearn.

Ref. 211(9)W.

18 August 1944.

Mrs. C.A.W. Were,  
British Consulate General,  
Alexandria.

Dear Mrs. Were,

Clothing for Tolumat.

Following on from my letter of July 27<sup>th</sup> this is to let you know that Camps Division U.N.R.R.A. have appointed a special officer, Capt. Hart, to deal with clothing problems in the camps.

He has assured me that plans have been made for the provision of adequate clothing in Tolumat children's camp in the winter, and that any deficiencies now in their clothing are, I am afraid, unavoidable, owing to shipping delays caused by present military operations.

Yours sincerely,

For Director of Welfare  
Division.

Copies to: Capt. Hart.  
Maj. Wareford-Davies.

MW/ms



U. N. R. R. A.

TOLUMBAT REFUGEE CAMP.

Tel. MUSTAPHA 78.

18 August '44.

Ref. No 4/543

Subject:- Welfare Furnishing.

To:- U.N.R.R.A., H.Q. ✓  
(for the attention of Mr. Greenstein).

Copy to:- H.E. Lady Killearn,  
British Embassy,  
ALEXANDRIA.

1. A short while back Lady Killearn visited this camp and showed great interest in the proposed amenity centre for the adults anxious to have an hours rest from their children.

The first intake has now arrived and we are able to sum up the degree of comfort that would be appreciated.

We enclose the demensions of a suitable room for the purpose. This would require rush-matting and 50 small tables and approximately 80 wicker-work upright chairs with arm rests.

It is felt that this degree of comfort would best fit in with the class of refugee at present likely to occupy the room.

Welfare books preferably in Yugoslav would be required for those of them who can read.

The room might be used as a sewing centre.

2. The erection of a Partisan Canteen is dependant on the decision at present pending as to whether the Partisans will be given money to spend as distinct from co-operative buying by the Partisan Committee.

3. A building has been set aside as a childrens nursery. Its demensions are also attached.

Childrens Pens and Toys are required and Paints, oil or water, preferably the former for making the place look attractive. About 20 wicker-work chairs will be required together with rush matting.

4. Lady Killearn was anxious that we should explore the possibilities of creches for the children being made. Her contention<sup>is</sup> that the child and mother on the same bed is unhygienic.

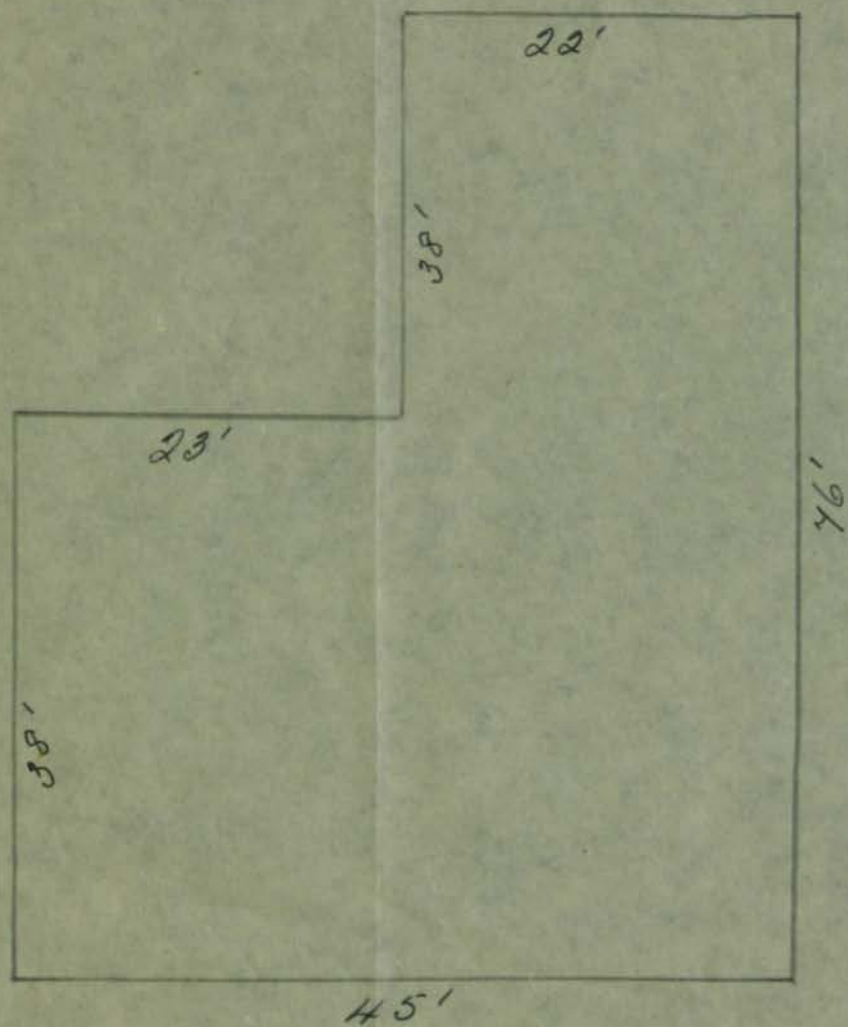
Can these be obtained. If so with our intended ceiling our requirements would be about 1,000, if children of the average age of our first intake are sent us.

5. We would be pleased to hear from you at earliest.

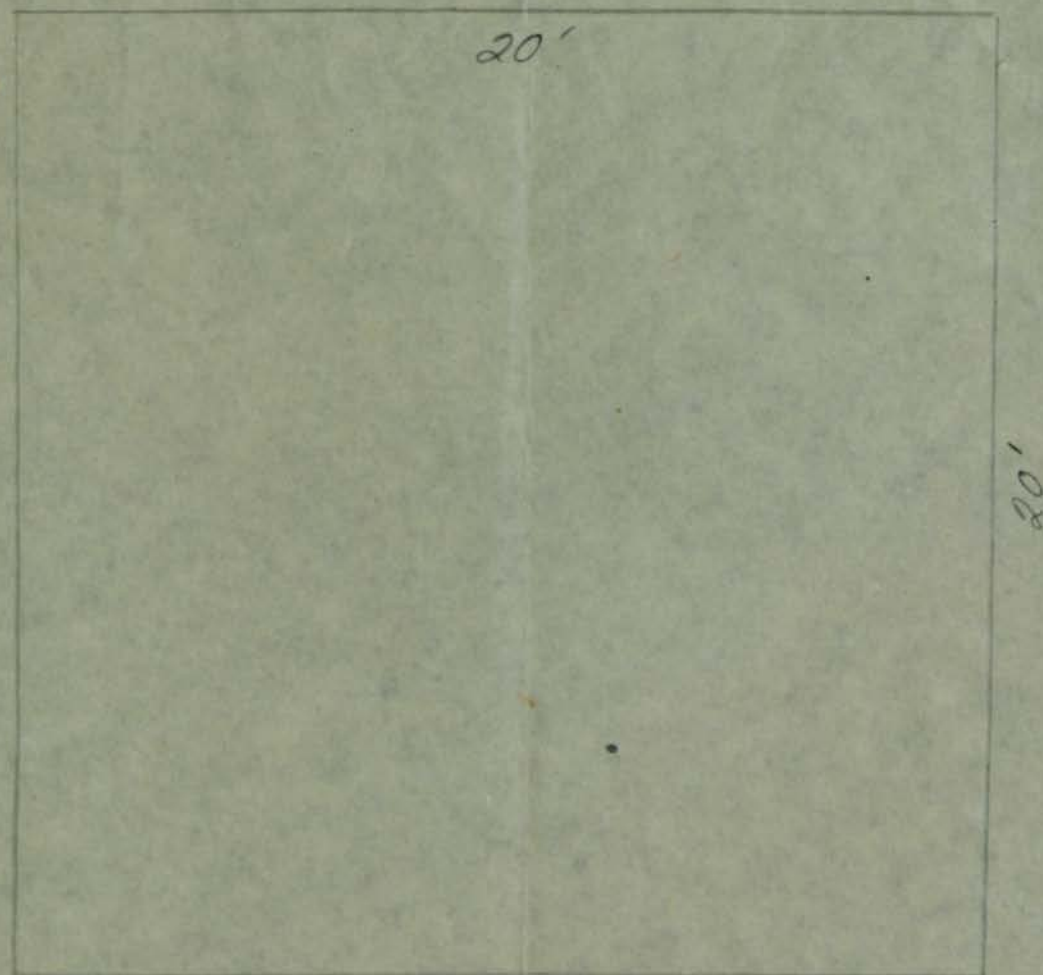
If our requirements are not available from Cairo may we purchase the necessary locally ?



NURSERY



REST ROOM.





UNRRA REFUGEE CAMP  
TOLUMBAT.  
Tel. MUSTAPHA 78.

211(9)/7.

Ref.No. 69/

26th June '44.

Subject:- Supplies.

To:- Mr. Alan Hall,  
Requirements and Supplies Bureau,  
U.N.R.R.A.

BUFFED

Copies to :- CAMPS' DIVISION. UNRRA.  
WELFARE BUREAU. UNRRA.

1. Minutes of Meeting 28/29 June refers.
2. Page 9 (para 9). Soap  
Indent submitted vide our Ref.No.9/312 dated 24th July '44  
Page 10. Sanitary Towels.  
Modern type is acceptable to the refugee.  
A supply of muslin, hygienic cotton, tapes and pins is required.  
General supply is an urgent need in this Camp. Refugees are having to improvise.  
Page 11. Canteen.  
Our Canteen is run by a local Contractor. Until such time as UNRRA can take over full responsibility for stocking and delivering ( Dry Goods, perishables, drinks etc.) it is recommended that the present supplier is retained.  
Page 11. Welfare.  
The scope of welfare in this Camp will be extremely limited if the intended policy of Convalescence for infant and very young children is adhered to. Adults will only number approximately 10% of the refugees sent here.  
(a) Schools at present in existence will cease and it is unlikely that they will be reopened. The children at present in the Camp will be removed elsewhere.  
(b) We have had no experience of child welfare as distinct from medical requirements, but toys, books and games of indoor and outdoor variety will be urgently required, for young children as distinct from infants.  
Baby chairs, cradles and toddlers reins if available could be put to good use. We have no carpenters but perhaps the shops in existence in the larger camps could help us out.  
(c) Would not apply to this camp. Adults will all be employed in running the camp.  
(d) A Cinema and Canteen are at present in being. Playing Cards, radios books and usual welfare amenities will be required for perhaps 300 adults at most  
6 Footballs                      2 Table Tennis sets complete.  
1 Basket Ball                    6 Draught Boards  
6 Chess Boards                   2 Bocca sets ( 9 balls)  
(e) Assuming Padres are available, supply of wine, altar breads, candles and crosses will be required.  
(f) Will not apply.

Major.

tw

COMMANAING, UNRRA REFUGEE CAMP.TOLUMBAT



*Cairo* 211(9)  
211(9)/6  
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
8, Sharia Dar El-Shifa - Garden City - Cairo

July 27, 1944.

Mrs. C. A. W. Were,  
British Consulate General,  
Alexandria.

Dear Mrs. Were,

Clothing for Tolumbat.

This is to let you know that the question of adequate provision of clothing for Tolumbat Children's Camp is being followed up.

We will be sending you and the Tolumbat Camp Commandant an official statement in a week or two.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Wise,  
Welfare Division.

MW:rp

REGISTRY.

For File 211/9 <sup>plus Miss Wise</sup>  
211/9/5

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION  
CAMPS DIVISION.

3, Sharia Ahmad Pasha,  
Garden City, Cairo.

Ref:- 5/7/44

July 29th, 1944.

BUFFED

Director of Welfare Division,  
U.N.R.R.A.,  
8, Sharia Dar El Shifa,  
Cairo.

I forward herewith a copy of a letter  
received from the Camp Commandant Tolumbat Refugee  
Camp for your information.

*Awthar*  
Lieutenant,  
for Director Camps Division.

AWB/pa.

PASSED TO:	
<i>Miss Wise</i>	
FOR ACTION	
SEEN BY	DATE



211(9)/4  
M.E.R.R.A.

TOLUMBAT REFUGEE Camp

RESTRICTED.

Tel. MUSTAPHA 78

17 July 1944

Ref.No. 10/255

Subject:- Local Charitable Assistance.

To:- DIRECTOR CAMPS' DIVISION. MERRA.  
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BUFFED

1. At a meeting on Wednesday 12th July at which I was present with certain local leaders of Refugee Charity Organisations in Alexandria, it was recommended that the following be brought to the notice of UNRRA. "That in view of the finances at the command of UNRRA and the fact that the number of Refugees in the Camps had now passed a figure, permitting suitable total assistance being given the Camps, the policy in future recommended is for approach to be made the leaders of Local Organisations for any requirements that were not obtainable through other sources.

Subject to the promise of reimbursement by UNRRA, it was felt that practically all such requirements could be obtained through them.

Collection of small quantities of clothing would still be continued. Small odd luxury requirements would also be supplied if available".

It would appear therefore that large quantities of clothing for adults or children are no longer available through charitable sources.

(sgnd) R. Warnford Davis  
mayor  
Commanding MERRA Refugee Camp Tolumbat



21(9)  
UNRRA REFUGEE CAMP  
TOLUMBAT.  
Tel. MUSTAPHA 78.

Ref.No. 69/

26th June '44.

Subject:- Supplies.

To:- Mr. Alan Hall,  
Requirements and Supplies Bureau,  
U.N.R.R.A.

BUFILED

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(a) Schools at present in existence will cease and it is unlikely that they will be reopened. The children at present in the Camp will be removed elsewhere.  
(b) We have had no experience of child welfare as distinct from medical requirements, but toys, books and games of indoor and outdoor variety will be urgently required, for young children as distinct from infants.  
Baby chairs, cradles and toddlers reins if available could be put to good use. We have no carpenters but perhaps the shops in existence in the larger camps could help us out.  
(c) Would not apply to this camp. Adults will all be employed in running the camp.  
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(e) Assuming Padres are available, supply of wine, altar breads, candles and crosses will be required.  
(f) Will not apply.

Major.

COMMANAING, UNRRA REFUGEE CAMP.TOLUMBAT



211(9)

British Council  
211(9)/2

IAL/3/2

18th July, 1944.

The following consignment of Periodical  
etc. has been despatched to you today via M.F.O  
Kindly acknowledge receipt.

200 Note Books  
Malta Magnificent  
50 Maps and Pictures  
31 Periodicals  
69 Pamphlets  
-----

Mrs M.C. Lester.  
Liaison Division.

Officer Commanding,  
Yugoslav Refugee Camp,  
TOLUMBAT.

BUFFED

gm

PASSED TO:	
Miss Wree	
FOR ACTION	
SEEN BY	DATE



Subject:- Welfare Program for Refugee Camps.

**BUFFED**

To:- Chairman, Welfare Committee,  
U.N.R.R.A.

1. Your copy minutes of Welfare Meeting together with your letter dated 6 June 44 refers.
2. Developement of Camp Welfare Programme, Tolumbat Camp. Method of promoting welfare varies according to the situation of each Camp.
  - (a) The personal contact and fostering of local charity organizations is essential.  
In this manner provision of clothing, underwear and footgear for both winter and summer has been obtained that was not available from MERRA. Sources can be tapped whenever cash is needed to provide special camp requirements. In this way we have acquired fishing tackle- funds to provide special fish and egg day for children and invalides - some carpenters tools - church requirements etc., etc. A concert was promoted in aid of this Camp, LE 50 was forwarded us as a result. A two-day Camp Sports Meeting was organized. Cash to the value of LE 35 was provided from local sources in addition to a distribution of 10,000 cigarettes and 40 kilos of sweets. The foregoing is given in detail to emphasise the importance of local contact.
  - (b) Maximum co-operation for Welfare of the Services is only possible where the MERRA Welfare Officer contacts and is on friendly terms with the persons concerned. It is useless to 'phone any Welfare and expect results, none will be forthcoming.
  - (c) It is not advisable to overload the responsibilities of the Welfare Officer.  
In this Camp his control of (i) clothing distribution (ii) exchange of funds and distribution of pocket-money and wages (iii) sewing centres (iv) general welfare and entertainment is a full time job.  
In our view the control of schooling, mail and cables, and personal problems is a matter for the Commandants of our Areas to deal with. Camp concerts, refugee sports, recreation indoors and outdoors are also controlled by Area Commandants and refugee sub-committees.
  - (d) Occupational centres play a small part in this camp due to the absence of machinery and material. What we are able to do such as our fishing industry, at present in its infancy, is again better controlled by Camp Areas. Religious matters are controlled and organized through refugee leaders and Area Commandants.
  - (e) No cloth has been received from MERRA HQ in this camp to employ refugees in sewing centres. Very small quantities have been sent in from local sources. No tools have been issued us, with the result that carpenters, tinsmiths and cobblers employment has only been possible on a very small scale.

For "No" read (e)  
'Only small  
quantity of'

Just received  
from Ordnance

Miss Davis  
To pass to  
Mr. Brownbridge

In Tolumbat  
there are no  
Vol. Soc. workers



*See over  
original note*  
(e) Ordnance have ceaselessly been approached by us and items on our indents occasionally are received but insufficient to organize workshops.

3. With reference to Para (d) Works Programmes.  
The principle of the employment of refugees is excellent, but implements and material must be forthcoming. Authority to draw on Ordnance and R.E. will lead to poor results.

Army regulations would have to be closely observed in regard to tampering with existing structures. UNRRA HQ would have to obtain authority of GHQ or BTE for all work that was to be carried out.

Camps can provide the labour, if the wherewithal and necessary authorities are forthcoming from UNRRA HQ.

4. We are of the opinion that to lay down welfare responsibilities from a UNRRA centralized body would be difficult to carry out, the circumstances of each camp vary to such a wide extent.

Recommendations such as are covered in the minutes concerned are of great help. Their carrying into effect should be organized from Camp HQ and the work distributed in accordance with the occupational duties of the personnel of the camp concerned.

Basic financial control, it is agreed, must be administered from UNRRA. Local support and the adoption of a camp by private individuals, charitably minded, has been the policy of this camp that has met with considerable success and appears to meet with UNRRA HQ policy.

The needs of a small camp are inclined to be overlooked by HQ, local support becomes the more essential.

up/ We have built the amenities in this camp accordingly.

5. A P.R.I. has been instituted from Swill, Canteen and (to come) Cinema Contracts, that should adequately cover the financial requirements of a camp of this size.

Major bulk necessities such as clothing, medical supplies and stores are of course the subject of authority and supply through UNRRA HQ.

I have not completely confined these notes to Para 2 b in the hope that comments may be of some value to the Committee.

*R. H. Sanford - Davis*

Commanding Refugee Camp & Civil Affairs Evacuation Unit