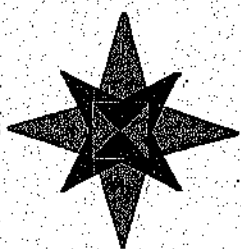


Under the
RED and BLACK STAR



American Friends Service Committee

American Friends Service Committee

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Under the Red and Black Star

THE American Friends Service Committee represents the Religious Society of Friends in efforts to relieve human suffering and to increase good will and understanding among men. Its programs of relief and reconstruction extend to many foreign countries; its projects in race relations, community rehabilitation, and peace education touch a number of the United States. In all of its work, both at home and abroad, the Committee seeks to penetrate beyond the demands of the immediate need to the deeper ills of the spirit which cause conflict among men. To the hungry, the ragged, the dispossessed, the forgotten and the hated, whatever may be their race, religion, or national origin, Quaker workers take not only material assistance but even more the healing sense of human brotherhood which alone can restore confidence and hope. All of the work of the Committee grows out of the basic Quaker belief in "that of God in every man" and a profound faith in the power of love to "take away the occasion for all wars."

The Society of Friends is small, but thousands of like-minded people of all denominations share in the work of this Committee. Through financial and spiritual support as well as active participation, they help to make possible the services which are described in the following pages.

The Red and Black Star, designed in 1870 to symbolize non-military service, was first used by British Friends who were taking help to victims of the Franco-Prussian War. Today it stands for Friends' service all over the world. In its far-flung work the American Friends Service Committee co-operates closely with British Friends and with Friends in other lands.

Foreign Relief and Reconstruction

With the war over and peace not yet achieved, the ravaged world touches new depths of grief and despair, of hunger and confusion. Before needs so vast and so complicated the voluntary agencies stand aghast. Only governments have adequate resources to meet the crisis. Yet even large government action is not enough by itself. There is also a need for a small, determined reconciling service of sympathy and understanding and for the new patterns of co-operation which resourceful and dedicated workers can try out in small but fresh and direct ways. In ten foreign countries AFSC programs are now going forward and plans are being made to go into others as the way opens.

FRANCE Even before the end of the war in Europe, the Committee was able to take help to France. From the autumn of 1944 British, American and French Friends have worked together, through the committee of France Yearly Meeting called *Secours Quaker*, in the cities of Paris, Caen, Le Havre, Marseille, Toulouse, Montauban, and Perpignan.

They have fed thousands of undernourished children, distributed clothing, visited hospitals and prisons, and provided some transport for relief supplies, building materials and local produce.

In June, 1946, believing that the emergency period had passed, and that the French government was able to take care of the relief needs of its people, American and British Friends turned their attention to reconstruction and rehabilitation. They are helping young people in Toulouse, Montauban and Perpignan, operating community centers with some specialized services for individuals, and giving assistance to Spanish refugees from the civil war who are still struggling to exist in the south of France without jobs and without hope. Eight men with trucks from the Quaker European Transport Unit (see below) have worked in the badly damaged coast city of St. Nazaire.

ITALY In the spring of 1945 rebuilding was at a standstill in the fought-over hill villages of east central Italy. Officials were apathetic, and the peasants were in despair, having no way to get essential materials from the kilns thirty miles away, and often no money to pay for them. A Service Committee worker conceived a simple but workable plan which could be tried out in a small way. A unit was formed consisting of one American, one Italian, three British FAU men, and two trucks and a car. Villagers who had no money to pay for materials cut firewood in the communal forest. The Quaker trucks hauled the wood to the kilns and exchanged it for brick, tile and plaster, which they delivered to the villagers. Italian government officials co-operated. Gradually houses began to rise out of the rubble. By autumn the Unit had grown to 12 men and seven vehicles. Over 200 houses had been repaired or built with its help, and UNRRA was taking an interest in the pattern which had been created.

In 1946 the work has been extended to the areas south of Rome and around Carrara. UNRRA is supplying 100-150 trucks and maintenance and co-operating with the Italian government, which will ultimately take full responsibility for the work. Twenty-four men from the AFSC, with as many more from the FAU, the International Voluntary Service for Peace, and the Brethren Service Committee and several Italian volunteers, are organizing the service and supervising the Italian drivers who do the actual hauling.

FINLAND When the 100,000 people evacuated from Finnish Lapland returned to their homes in the summer of 1945, they found that everything—houses, schools, hospitals, churches, bridges—had been destroyed by the retreating Germans. Taking shelter in caves and cellars and burnt-out car bodies, they began at once to rebuild. The official ration was about 1,200 calories daily; clothing and shoes were unobtainable.

The Service Committee, with the financial support of Help Finland, Inc., and United Finnish Relief, Inc., sent six workers, one of whom is a joint appointee of the AFSC and the Lutherans, to supervise the distribution of food and clothing in Finnish Lapland in co-operation with the Finnish Red Cross. A representative in Stockholm purchased supplies in Sweden and Denmark for the program. By May, 1946, 26,000 school and pre-school children were being given a supplementary meal a day. One hundred and fifty tons of clothing and 15,000 pairs of shoes had been dis-

tributed. The American staff has organized two summer work camps in Lapland after the pattern of Friends work camps in the United States. About 40 Finnish university students and a group of Swedish and Danish persons will engage in farm work and a reconstruction program which includes the rebuilding of a school in a community where 70 children have had no school since 1939. As UNRRA supplies reach Northern Finland, the Quaker work will probably be extended to needy persons in Southern Finland.

CENTRAL EUROPE In the unprecedented world-wide famine, the countries of Central Europe have been particularly hard hit. Mass movements of often destitute people through exportation, flight, or repatriation aggravate the misery and confusion caused by the destruction of cities, the crippling of transportation, and the division of the occupied countries into separate, watertight and economically unsound zones. Serious as are the physical scars of war, the spiritual scars of fear, hatred and revenge are deeper and more dangerous. The AFSC seeks to relieve suffering among mothers and children, the sick and the old, and in so doing to carry a message of compassion and brotherhood to people isolated by nearly six years of war.

In Poland, American and British Quaker workers are distributing food for young children and clothing in Kozienice district southeast of Warsaw, where 200 villages were completely destroyed, and in Olsztyn district in former East Prussia. A team of the Quaker Transport Unit will haul building materials for rural reconstruction in Kielce Province.

Eight AFSC workers in shattered Austria are supervising the distribution of food, cod liver oil, vitamins, soap and glass substitute. Their program of supplementary feeding reaches undernourished adolescents in apprentice homes, rest homes and high schools in and about Vienna. Some services to individuals are provided and plans for a hand skills project are being developed with the enthusiastic support of labor leaders. In an emergency program in a town south of Vienna in the "Forgotten Valley," AFSC workers have been providing food packages to 1,600 persons over 65, 450 children under four, and 300 teen-age boys and girls.

The AFSC is one of 15 voluntary agencies permitted to work in the American zone of Germany under Cralog (Council of Relief Agencies Licensed to Operate in Germany). Food, clothing and medical supplies shipped to the American zone are distributed by indigenous welfare agencies under American supervision. A similar arrangement is being made with the French zone. Ten AFSC workers, after preliminary training both in the United States and England, are joining British Quaker teams which are distributing food and clothing and doing youth work in the British zone. \$50,000 worth of food, blankets and medicine has been sent to the Russian zone for distribution by the International Red Cross to 60,000 badly undernourished German children who have been expelled from Silesia, East Prussia and Poland. It is hoped that in time AFSC personnel may be admitted into the Russian zone. Though at present the largest amounts of supplies are going to the American zone, the AFSC looks forward to sending \$50,000 worth of relief supplies a month to each of the four zones.

Arrangements are being made and workers appointed to take relief also to Hungary, from which come tragic reports of distress.

QUAKER TRANSPORT UNIT The breakdown of transportation, due to the destruction of bridges, railways, locomotives and rolling stock and the shortage of fuel, has intensified the misery in Europe by preventing speedy distribution of available supplies of food and building materials. In the winter of 1946 the AFSC organized the Quaker European Transport Unit to provide dependable and efficient transport of needed supplies in places where such service is lacking. The Unit, with 20 workers and 19 trucks, has its headquarters in Paris, from where it sends teams and trucks to areas where they are needed.

OTHER EUROPEAN SERVICES Two AFSC delegates are working with Dutch Friends in Holland. In Madrid the AFSC is one of five agencies that maintain an office which serves stateless refugees in Spain. A School Sponsorship Program established friendly contacts between American schools and schools abroad. Seven "affiliations" have already been made between American and French schools. AFSC representatives will visit Holland and Italy as well as France during the summer.

In the Philadelphia office of the Committee the division of Individual Services provides help with housing, fellowship and employment to the "new Americans" in this country and also handles problems of immigration aid, tracing of family and relatives, and assistance with other difficulties in cooperation with workers abroad. Sky Island, near Nyack, N. Y., which the Committee has maintained for six years as a summer vacation hostel for refugees and new Americans, is now being used as a reception hostel for displaced persons coming to this country under the President's directive of December, 1945.

CHINA For nearly six years the Friends Ambulance Unit China Convoy has performed a remarkable service of mercy in a war-torn land. Medical teams worked in field hospitals directly behind the front lines, often under fire; they established and operated small civilian hospitals, and carried out emergency programs to combat famine and plague. The transport section hauled a large proportion of the total civilian medical supplies from Kutsing, where they arrived by air over the Hump, to Chungking.

The Unit is made up of 100-150 young men and women, all pacifists, representing five countries: Britain, Canada, the United States, New Zealand and China. It is possible that the pattern of international co-operation in relief which has been successfully worked out under extraordinarily complicated conditions may be even more important in the long run than the actual work which they did, useful as that was.

With the end of the war, the emphasis has been shifted to rehabilitation, and the entire Unit will be concentrated in devastated Honan Province, where its medical and mechanical services can be co-ordinated. Of the 17 mission hospitals in the vicinity of Chengchow before the war, only two remained in operation at the end of it. The China Convoy has set about the restoration of medical and health facilities in northern Honan, reconditioning hospitals, improvising, repairing and installing equipment, hauling supplies, and working in certain hospitals until the Missions can replace medical personnel and carry on their former work. Twenty-three AFSC workers are there now and several others are under appointment.

INDIA When the famine of 1943 settled down over India, it brought with it disease and destitution. American and British Friends, supported in part by large contributions from American labor groups, entered upon the emergency feeding of children and mothers in Bengal. Through over 300 agencies of varied political and religious coloration, milk, vitamins, sulfa drugs, atabrine and other medicines reached thousands of people. Village craft centers were established to train widows and orphans to support themselves, and co-operatives of various kinds were set up in a long-range program of rehabilitation.

Now that a new and perhaps even greater famine looms over Southern India, the Friends Service Unit, made up of British, American and Indian personnel, which has the confidence of both government and Indians, will devote itself to co-ordinating the efforts of Indian agencies with the government and to helping in the efficient and fair distribution of supplies. The AFSC is buying, with Indian government funds, \$1,212,000 worth of milk over and above the amount of India's regular allocations and Quaker workers will supervise the distribution of this milk to selected needy groups as supplementary relief. American aid to India in this time of desperate crisis not only may save lives but help to bridge the gulf of ignorance and distrust that separates India from the western world.

JAPAN In late May, 1946, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers (SCAP) approved the monthly shipment of 200 tons of food and clothing to Japan and 500 tons to Korea by the American Council of Voluntary Agencies. Two commissioners, one of whom is a representative of the AFSC, have gone to Japan to arrange for the reception of supplies and to open up channels of distribution. By the terms of her new constitution, Japan officially renounces recourse to war forever. It is important that this new approach to life should not be starved at birth by material famine and spiritual indifference.

GIFTS-IN-KIND Hand in hand with hunger go rags. Wherever the Quaker workers are sent, bales of clothing follow. The warm garments made, collected, cleaned, mended and packed in workrooms all over the United States, by devoted people of all races and denominations, represent to those who receive them more than the necessary covering for shivering bodies. They mean renewed self-confidence and restored faith in the possibility of good will in a world torn by hatred. In 1945 the AFSC shipped 282 tons of clothing, bedding, shoes and soap to many foreign countries, more than twice as much as was shipped in any previous year. During the first four months of 1946, 323 tons were shipped to Finland, France, Holland, Austria, Italy, Germany, Jugoslavia and Poland. One ton was distributed in the United States.

In May, 1946, in order to provide another channel for people who wish to share their plenty in a direct way, the Committee organized facilities to receive certain gifts-in-kind besides clothing. Special information about clothing and gifts-in-kind collections is available.

THE WORKERS The Committee considers even more important than the supplies which it sends abroad the character of the workers who organize the projects and distribute the goods or supervise their distribution. All of the Committee's representatives are committed to

the way of peace. Though their skills and backgrounds are varied, they are alike in the desire to serve victims of war and oppression. They serve without salary, the Committee providing maintenance and insurance and in some cases dependency allowances. Only about a third of them are Friends; the rest belong to many different churches or to none. Recently men discharged from Civilian Public Service camps have been joining in considerable numbers, the more impressive because they have already given three or four years of their lives to their country without pay, and the further postponement of their homes and careers represents a real sacrifice.

Seeds of Peace in America

To do relief work, which is temporary, in a spirit that makes for permanent good will, is one of the Committee's major purposes. In this time of world-wide suffering and want, relief absorbs the largest part of the Committee's resources. Relief, however, is at best not enough. People of good will everywhere must seek by the prevention of war and the promotion of social and economic justice to make relief unnecessary.

In the face of the magnitude and complexity of the task in a world of advanced technical development and retarded moral responsibility, small groups can do but little. They can, however, quietly and persistently experiment in ways of increasing understanding and good feeling among men and make young people aware of the problems and responsibilities that lie before them.

In 1927 the Committee set up the Peace Section to carry on a national program of education for peace. Three years later the Social-Industrial Section was organized to work in the field where poverty, racial tensions, ignorance and callousness create resentments that lead to violence.

INSTITUTES AND CONFERENCES Ten-day Institutes on International Relations held on college and university campuses during the summer months draw students, teachers, ministers and other community leaders to discuss the fundamental bases of world peace. Well-known experts in their fields present and interpret the facts. During the past few years such authorities as Vera Brittain, Andrew Cordier, Maynard Krueger, Rufus M. Jones and others have taken part in these sessions. The number of summer institutes has now grown to sixteen, of which four are for high school students. They are held in twelve different states from New Hampshire and North Carolina in the East to Oregon and California in the West.

Besides these extended institutes, one-day and week-end conferences throughout the year bring together large numbers of people to study and discuss specific problems of peace and world organization.

Seminars for Foreign Students, which gathered together students from many countries on an American campus for seven weeks of study and fellowship, had to be discontinued during the war. Plans are now being made for their resumption and special contributions have assured their support.

A field staff of directors and youth secretaries in twelve different areas carries on this work of education throughout the year.

PEACE CARAVANS For eight weeks each summer small groups of young people carry out programs of direct peace education in seven or eight cities and rural areas in the United States. Each "caravan" consists of four or five young men and women who bring before church, community, welfare, labor and recreational groups the issues and objectives of peace. The specific work that they do varies according to the place and the circumstances, but it includes education through radio, young people's clubs, playgrounds, hospitals, neighborhood houses and summer camps. For two summers an interracial caravan, made up of a Caucasian, a Jewish, a Negro, a Japanese American or a Mexican girl, has visited children's camps in the neighborhood of Detroit. Spending several days in each camp, they have won the friendship of the children by their skills of crafts, swimming or singing, and have then led them into direct and remedial discussion of race relations. More persuasive than all they did or said was their own obviously happy companionship. As a result of their work, two camps which did not formerly admit Negroes have done so at the instigation of the children themselves. Nine camps asked the caravan to visit them in the summer of 1946.

WORK CAMPS The pattern of the work camps first developed in Europe by the great Swiss pacifist and Friend, Pierre Ceresole, has been adapted by the Social-Industrial Section to the educational service of young people in America. The typical work camp consists of not more than twenty young men and women, with a mature couple as leaders and a dietitian, who spend the two summer months in an underprivileged community which has need of some facility that it cannot achieve for itself. Living co-operatively in a simple way, the work campers level a city lot for a playground, add a lunchroom to a rural school house, build a bridge over a mountain stream that isolates a settlement of people, redecorate an old house for a community center, or repair and refurbish tenant houses in city slums. They try always to draw the members of the community into their work and their fun. Through shared manual labor, through discussion and first-hand knowledge of the conditions in which depressed groups are compelled to live, through the morning meditation which is part of every work camp, they grow in understanding of themselves and their fellow-men.

During the past ten years the pattern has been extended to include a year-round work camp at Flanner House in Indianapolis and week-end work camps in various other cities; a students-in-industry project in which young people living co-operatively hold jobs in industry and compare notes on labor problems; several farm-labor camps; and a students-in-co-operatives, in which the group learns about the co-operative movement by doing practical work in it.

The fact that all these young people pay \$75 to \$100 a summer for the privilege of working for others invariably impresses the community of their sincerity and hastens co-operation. The presence among the campers of representatives of different races and religions is broadening for all concerned. Since the work camps were started over 2,000 young people have taken part in them. Many of these have later joined the staff of the AFSC as field or overseas workers or as employees in the Philadelphia office.

The educational value of the work camps is being increasingly recognized by schoolmen who are seeking a more realistic approach to life for the

young minds in their care, and the result has been an increase in the number of camps for high school students. The University of Chicago Laboratory High School co-operates with the AFSC in sponsoring some of the camps.

The work camp technique is also being extended to the international field. Since 1939 the Peace Section has held summer and year-round service projects in Mexico, in which American young men and women, working directly under the Mexican Departments of Public Health and Indian Affairs, help to build model houses and schools, dig drainage ditches for malaria control, and serve on rural health and recreation programs. They are frequently joined for short periods by young Mexicans of similar interests and purposes. In India the Friends Service Unit has arranged work camps in which Hindus and Moslems, students and school teachers and others take part in building and village education projects, and in Northern Norway and Finland AFSC workers will help to direct international work camps in which volunteers from several countries will take part.

FRIENDS INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE UNITS Developing out of the desperate need for attendants in mental hospitals during the war and the work of CPS men in that field, a women's unit was started by the AFSC in 1943 in one large state mental hospital. Young women served for periods varying from two months to two years, chiefly as ward attendants caring for the mentally ill. With the end of the war and the discontinuance of Friends CPS, the service was made co-educational and was extended to state reformatories, which are also in critical need of personnel. In the summer of 1946 approximately 100 young people will serve in four institutions. They are part of the regular institutional staff, living in the attendants' homes, receiving full maintenance and the prevailing attendant salary. Besides their satisfaction in having given help where it was badly needed, members of the units have found that the experience was valuable to them in their later work, especially in fields of psychology, social work and education.

PENN-CRAFT AND LITTLE RIVER FARM As early as 1922 the Service Committee fed children of unemployed miners in the bituminous coal fields. Out of this emergency feeding came several attempts to find a solution to large-scale unemployment and to develop new skills for displaced workers. In 1932 the Committee bought a farm tract in Fayette County, Pa., and started there a community in which miners could own their own homes and achieve a stable life in spite of the fluctuations of the coal industry. Fifty families, provided by the Committee with a loan of \$2,000 each for materials, helped one another to build substantial and attractive stone houses worth two or three times their cost. A small knitting factory, a frozen food locker and a co-operative store offer opportunities for employment and help to bind the community together. Five of the fifty families have already paid off their loan, well ahead of schedule. An extension to Penn-Craft is now under way. Instead of 1½ to 2 acres of land, each homesteader will have ten acres, so that they will be able to produce most of their basic necessities by farming. Of the fifteen families engaged in the new project, several are sons of the first homesteaders.

The method of exchanging labor through a planned man-hour system

developed at Penn-Craft will be applied to a self-help housing project, Flanner Homes, in Indianapolis.

In South Carolina Little River Farm is a community where with AFSC leadership sharecroppers are sharing farm implements, improving the soil and undertaking diversified farming. The way is open for them to own their own land.

RACE RELATIONS Increasing tensions among racial groups in this country cannot fail to engage the concern of the Service Committee. The achievement of harmony and good feeling as well as economic and social justice lies at the very root of peace.

In one sense all of the work of the Committee has a bearing on the race problem. Its relief programs reach out to those who suffer, without regard to their nationality, race or religion. Its educational and service projects for young people are open to all without discrimination, and the message which they embody includes the necessity for interracial harmony and justice. On the staff of the Committee, Japanese Americans, Negroes, Chinese and Caucasians work together in harmony, as do Protestants, Roman Catholics, Jews and Buddhists.

In 1944 the Committee, feeling that this basic attitude was not enough, set up a race relations committee to plan a national program and to work in close co-operation with the local programs of the Race Relations Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meetings. Several projects have been initiated.

To disabuse white young people of the false racial stereotypes that distort their vision, the Race Relations Committee established a Visiting Lectureship. Negro scholars well known in their own fields visit so-called white schools and colleges, where, living for a week or more on the campus, they lecture to the students and sometimes to community groups on their own subject and meet with informal gatherings. In this way lecturer, students, faculty and townspeople learn more of one another and their respective ways and problems. A distinguished religious leader and authority on folklore, a political economist and a sociologist held the lectureship during the first two years, and a well-known psychologist has been appointed for the third year. Numerous schools and colleges in the East and Middle West have testified to the value of this experience for the students. After holding the lectureship, one of the visiting professors was appointed first Negro full professor on the faculty of a large Northern university.

Another experiment is the Placement Service, which seeks to find positions for Negroes of superior promise and proven ability in fields not traditionally open to them. The task of the full-time Placement Secretary is to find both the applicant and the job, and to help and counsel employers in the techniques of introducing Negro employees into new fields. Because this is essentially a pioneering venture, the method of John Woolman has been used: direct personal visits to key people in both education and industry to explain the service to them and discuss with them its problems and the possibilities which it holds.

The Committee is co-operating with Flanner House in Indianapolis in an educational program to prepare the tenant community for a self-help housing project for Negroes which is based upon Penn-Craft.

An informal and unpremeditated service which has grown out of the race relations program is that of counseling in tangled situations. The Sec-

retary of the Race Relations Committee has been asked by representative citizens in several cities to meet with them either to analyze a difficult problem or to make suggestions for organizing better race relations. The combination of a community genuinely seeking a solution and an experienced and resourceful counselor from the outside has resulted in fresh insights and some progress.

Several of the work camps since 1942 have been planned especially to deal with interracial situations. The first interracial camp in the South was successfully held in Nashville in 1944. Work camps on the West Coast have benefited Chinese and Japanese Americans. Peace Caravans have also worked for better interracial understanding and wider opportunities for members of minority groups.

Fundamentally, all of the American Friends Service Committee's work, whether of relief and reconstruction, improvement of race relations, peace education, or service projects for young people, is directed toward bringing about a world in which every human personality may grow to his full stature without the threat of being cut down by war or stunted by hatred and discrimination. In the history of the Committee may be traced the threads that make up the fabric of today's endeavors.

The History of the Committee

THE QUAKER BACKGROUND

Ever since the Society of Friends arose amid the religious upheavals of 17th century England, it has been sensitive to the needs and aspirations of harassed or fettered men. Expressing their social awareness at first in assistance to people who were undergoing persecution for the sake of their religion, Friends widened their sense of responsibility to include the American Indians, Negro slaves, the insane, prisoners, victims of war. For two and a half centuries these "concerns" were felt and forwarded by individuals or by small groups of Friends. Always they were carried out in a spirit that sought not merely to alleviate the distress but to reconcile the discordant elements that caused it.

A SERVICE OF LOVE IN WARTIME

The first World War made evident the need for an organization through which all Friends could share in the kind of service appropriate to the Quaker philosophy. In 1917 the American Friends Service Committee was formed to provide a way in which people who could not conscientiously accept the method of violence might serve the cause of peace in the midst of war. Like the Friends Relief Service established in England in 1914, it sent young Friends and others to France to do work of relief and reconstruction in the devastated areas.

There, co-operating with English Friends, they fed and cared for refugee children, founded a maternity hospital, repaired damaged houses and built hundreds of new cottages, and provided returning peasants with the seeds, tools, clothing and furniture which they needed in order to take up life once more.

As soon as hostilities came to an end in 1918, the work of the Service Committee flowed beyond France into other countries on which the war had

laid its shattering hand. As early as 1917, indeed, famine in Russia had drawn Service Committee workers to the new Soviet state. After the war they took food to countless people in Russia, Poland and Serbia. They gave to the people of whole provinces materials with which to start the rebuilding of their lives. They provided medical service during the Russian epidemics of cholera and typhus. In Poland they set up a business in embroideries for the women, and started an orphanage and an agricultural school, which were later continued by the Polish government.

After a group of its members had visited Germany and Austria and seen hundreds and thousands of children suffering from malnutrition and deficiency diseases, the Committee bought cows and milk for Austria and became the largest milk distributors in Vienna. Between 1920 and 1924 millions of children were fed in towns and villages all over Germany.

The work of the Service Committee, which began as a venture of faith, soon attracted wide public sympathy, perhaps for the very reason that it was consistently unpartisan in a period of violent adherences. It dared also to express in deeds the conviction that the alternative to war is neither cowardice nor withdrawal but creative and irresistible good will. Certainly without the aid of the public it could never have spread its healing services so far. The American Red Cross, the American Relief Commission directed by Herbert Hoover, and the committee under General Allen, commander of the American Army of Occupation in Germany, as well as many other organizations and countless individuals, made generous contributions to the work in both money and goods.

BETWEEN WARS As an outgrowth of the Committee's initial work in Europe, permanent Centers to promote international good will were established in Berlin, Vienna, Paris and Geneva. The joint undertakings of English and American Friends, these Centers were staffed wherever possible by representatives of both countries.

During the early days of the Nazi persecution of so-called non-Aryans in Germany and Austria, the Centers were able to help many of the thousands of desperate people who appealed to them for aid. It was at this time that the problem of refugees became one of the Committee's major concerns.

When Spain was torn by civil war, the Committee gave help to sufferers on both sides. American and British workers distributed food, clothing, and medical supplies among the needy civilian population, operated three children's hospitals, and fed thousands of children daily. At the end of the war when refugees swarmed over the border into Southern France, the Committee distributed food and medicines to children and adults in internment camps and set up colonies which gave complete care to hundreds of children.

WORLD WAR II When France itself was in need of help, a staff of workers was already in the field. As long as part of France remained unoccupied, an American staff worked with French and other European colleagues in Marseille, Toulouse, Perpignan, Montauban and Auch. After the severing of relations between the United States and the Vichy government, eight American Quaker workers were interned at Baden Baden and repatriated nearly a year later. In the early months of 1944 the Service Committee was able to transfer \$200,000 to Switzerland and Portugal to buy food in those countries for French Quaker workers to

distribute in France. By the end of the year, American and British workers were again on the way to France, and the shipping of supplies had begun.

When harassed people from all over Europe were fleeing into neutral countries, the Service Committee was able through its offices in Lisbon, Madrid, and North Africa to expedite the journey of some of these fugitives with visa and transportation aid or with transfers of money from friends in the United States. Two representatives of the Committee worked in Italy with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, trying to solve the problems of displaced persons there, and ten workers lent to UNRRA were assigned to the Balkan Mission.

When the blitz struck London and other English cities, young British Quakers were in the forefront of the work of relieving the victims of bombing and gathering up the children and old people who had no shelter or means of support. While the need endured, the American Friends Service Committee shared in the financial responsibility for the program, and two Service Committee representatives worked in England with British Friends.

In India and in China, American Quaker workers joined the British Friends Ambulance Unit on programs which are still continuing.

AMERICA AT WAR One of the first casualties of the war was the group of Japanese Americans who lived on the West Coast, of whom 70% were citizens of the United States. Forced to abandon their homes, businesses and many personal belongings, they were transferred to relocation centers, where they lived in wooden barracks behind barbed wires.

After unsuccessful attempts to prevent this enforced exodus, the Committee gave what help it could to these unfortunate people: personal services in the camps and help with relocation. The National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, which the Service Committee together with other agencies was instrumental in launching, has been successful in placing about 3,000 students in more than 500 colleges and universities. As the interned Japanese Americans were able to leave the camps and start life afresh in new communities, the Service Committee established hostels to help ease the transition for them. In the hostels disoriented and discouraged people, living in a friendly atmosphere and bringing their problems of employment, permanent housing, and adjustment to the careful attention of skilled and understanding leaders, found a measure of the security which they so desperately needed. The hostels in Pasadena and Los Angeles are still in operation, but those in Chicago, Des Moines, and Cincinnati, having served their purpose, have been closed.

For five years the American Friends Service Committee was responsible for the welfare and maintenance of conscientious objectors. This program, known as Civilian Public Service, was a joint undertaking with Mennonites, Brethren, and other church agencies who united to form the National Service Board for Religious Objectors. Of the 10,000 men in CPS camps, about 2,000 were under the care of Friends. In March, 1946, the Committee concluded its administration of CPS camps and units, believing that to carry on the program after the war was over would appear to condone peacetime conscription.

It is too soon to appraise adequately the value of CPS. Though conscientious objectors in this war were given legal status and a job to do under

CPS, in too many instances the job was wasteful of training and ability that might have been put to significant use. Throughout this period the Service Committee tried to gain the release of CPS men to do hazardous war relief work, as was permitted to British conscientious objectors. Throughout the camps there was a unanimous desire to participate directly in the suffering and to share the risks of those fellow-citizens of their own age who were in the armed services.

The Committee's efforts to extend detached service so as to employ men in work of more direct bearing upon the national welfare were more successful. In hospitals, medical research, schools for mental deficient and juvenile delinquents, and public health service, CPS men helped to fill a shortage of essential manpower and also contributed to important discoveries in medicine and nutrition. As human "guinea pigs" they were infected with jaundice, malaria, virus pneumonia, wore lice-infested clothing, and suffered starvation, thirst, extreme heat and cold, high and low altitudes, frost-bite, and fatigue. About 400 men from Friends CPS served as attendants in mental hospitals and over 100 as cottage masters in training schools for the mentally deficient. Out of this work has developed the National Mental Health Foundation, which is now conducting a campaign to inform the public on conditions in mental hospitals, to raise the standards of mental care and to improve the laws dealing with the mentally ill.

Throughout the years of CPS the men have received neither wages for their work nor compensation for injury suffered in performing their duties. Their dependents were not eligible for government allotments. As of December 31, 1945, the AFSC had paid over \$2,000,000 to carry the responsibilities it assumed for CPS. This entire amount was contributed voluntarily by the CPS men themselves, by their families, by members of the Society of Friends, and by churches and individuals.

The Committee considers the proposal of permanent peacetime conscription, which arose during the war and has not yet been defeated, a serious threat to freedom of conscience in the United States and to the trust and good feeling among nations on which peace must be built. In order to see that the question was thoroughly understood by Friends and others, the Committee has conducted a vigorous educational campaign.

Toward the Future

Famine hovers like a vulture over the ravaged earth. Fear and distrust and bitterness divide the nations, victors and vanquished. Man, instead of laying down his arms, is inventing yet more terrible weapons of destruction. Yet it is possible that the low water mark has been reached. There are indications that like an incoming tide, a recognition by men everywhere of the necessity for peace, a determination to understand and to endure, and a surge of compassion may sweep us on to higher levels. In humility and faith the American Friends Service Committee, strengthened by the support of an ever-increasing host of like-minded individuals and groups, prepares to extend its work at home and in foreign fields. The work itself is small, but man only plants the seed: it is God who gives the increase.



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

20 SOUTH 12TH STREET

PHILADELPHIA 7, PENNSYLVANIA

Midwest Branch

189 W. Madison Street

Chicago 2, Illinois

Southern California Branch

426 N. Raymond Avenue

Pasadena 8, California

Northern California Branch

1830 Sutter Street

San Francisco 15, California

Seattle Office

3959 15th Avenue, N. E.

Seattle 5, Washington