

ancial agent of the institution with whom I dealt during my stay in Germany. All their requests were made through Military Government channels.

85. Lengerich Asylum was a provincial institution, which had been requisitioned by the British Army after their arrival for a German Prisoners of War Hospital, without notifying the Military Government. The patients were transferred to the local schools in overcrowded quarters and many were lost; some hiding themselves in the woods nearby, others going back home. The Institution had a capacity of about 1200 patients. Five hundred of whom were billeted into the local schools where they were overcrowded and no sanitary accommodation whatsoever, not even a booth for epileptics' treatment. Release of the building was asked time after time from the Royal Army Medical Corps but nothing was ever done; until a British soldier was murdered by one of the inmates. All kinds of complaints poured to the local Detachment and were forwarded to the Provincial Detachment Welfare Officer for immediate action concerning this institution. Late in the fall the establishment was released to the German authorities.

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO THE WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

86. On 28 Jun 45 the first official meeting of all German Welfare Organizations was held in the Parish House of Innere Mission, Lippstadt, and presided over by the Military Government Relief and Welfare Officer. The following German personnel were present: Landeshauptmann Salzmann, Director of the Provincial Welfare; Pastor Moeller, for Innere Mission; Dom Kapitular Holling, for Caritas Verband (Munster); Dom Kapitular Bruckling, for Caritas Verband (Paderborn); Dr Teetmeyers, for German Red Cross; Dr Meyers, for Arbeitwohlfahrt (Workers Welfare). The purpose of the meeting was to meet the directors of all welfare organizations and reorganize them on a sound democratic basis. We told them that the Military Government insisted on a complete denazification of their personnel from the top to the bottom and warned them we would have no mercy on those who did not answer their fragebogen honestly or had been ex-members of the Party. No welfare workers could be retained or accepted without first having their fragebogen accepted by the Public Safety and Welfare Branches of the Military Government.

87. Each welfare organization or society was to make a report to the Welfare Branch of the Military Government declaring the available space in the institutions of their towns or Kreis giving the exact location and pointing out those which were overcrowded and any which could be temporarily repaired. The biggest problem was the releasing of institutions which had been requisitioned by the Wehrmacht and were now used by the Occupation Army as hospitals for the Allied Forces or as Displaced Persons Centres. Every day during the summer of 1945, Priests, Sisters, Pastors came to our Branch asking that their

institutions be released. In the beginning of September 1945, after the departure of the Displaced Persons to their respective countries and the release of the German Ps.O.W., we were able to release hundreds of buildings to the German welfare organizations. This became even more important when we learned of the impending arrival of about 2,000,000 Germans from Poland whom 800,000 were for the Province of Westphalia. A further report concerning state of health, nourishment, the conditions of clothing, living and heating in each area was called for as soon as possible so that steps could be taken to prevent epidemics that winter. See Appx "C"

88. There were many tasks for welfare that winter. The re-organization of soup-kitchens and if possible sleeping accommodation for transients, evacuees and refugees and Ps.O.W. demanded a high priority. The question of communal feeding for people in bombed towns without means of cooking could not be forgotten. The repatriation of evacuated children and families through refugees centres had to be organized before they could be placed by the Housing Department. Accommodation for boys and girls in the reformatory schools, the question of guardianship, the screening of foster parents or people adopting children and the raising of the children along democratic principles all came under the Welfare Branch. Special care and feeding for expectant mothers, nursing mothers, babies, old people and orphans had to be provided. All Youth Organizations were to be dissolved forthwith and none could be re-organized without special authority from the Military Government. The German War Legion (similar to the Canadian Legion) and the Reich Unions of Persons Injured by the War were to be abolished and absorbed by the Provincial Welfare along with widows, orphans and disabled veterans.

89. Requests for fuel, motor cars, lorries, gasoline coupons, tires, etc, for Welfare Directors and Institutions were to be made through the Welfare Officer of the Military Government. As all the Welfare funds had been frozen a special order had been issued to all local banks by the Finance and Property Control Branch of the Military Government explaining how advances could be obtained.

90. Requests for building materials had to be made through Military Government channels. All requests for welfare needs at high level should be submitted to the Welfare Officer at Military Government Provincial Headquarters, otherwise through the local detachment. Suggestions concerning the new welfare policy were welcomed by the Military Government. Teaching in all welfare institutions was to be halted while samples of the books used were forwarded to the Educational Branch of the Military Government for approval. No welfare school could be re-opened without authority of the Military Government. All text books had to be screened and replaced if not found acceptable. Directors of Institutions should be screened by the Public Safety Officer in their respective Kreis for the policy of the Military Government was to eradicate all taint of Nazi ideology from these societies and to ensure that they were in accordance with

the principles of the Military Government. Germans of Jewish Faith were to be taken care of by the Gentile Welfare Societies until they will be able to re-organize their own groups. Nothing should be done to impede the operations of those welfare societies which had a sound democratic or religious basis and were well established before 1928. The Director of the Provincial Welfare was empowered to return any property which had been confiscated by the Nazis. No new welfare organizations could be formed or come into existence without the authority of the Military Government.

91. At the commencement of the occupation, the cooperation between the Army and the Military Government left nothing to be desired - the two organizations pulled together admirably. As time went on, however, and due to a number of reasons, the Army authorities began to act independently, causing a great deal of misunderstanding and unnecessary difficulty for the Military Government which was endeavouring to act in as humane a manner as possible. It should be understood that the German was forever holding up the Geneva Conventions and the International Conventions concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land as the basis of correct government of a defeated people. This was not generally appreciated by the young commanders of the Army. On 3 Jul 45 we received a visit from the Archbishop of Paderborn concerning certain sanitoriums and unreasonable demands made by the Army. Together, we interviewed the Assistant Deputy Governor of the Military Government for the Province of Westphalia, to whom the Archbishop explained the situation. This matter had to be cleared up and was therefore referred to General Montgomery who laid down that the Military Government was the senior directing body and that Army should take advice from the Military Government before initiating any action whatsoever. After this understanding had been reached the initial cooperation and good feeling was resumed.

SOME LOCAL PROBLEMS

92. Welfare and Relief problems were growing more and more acute every day. Requests were made to B.A.O.R. Pers to have ten more officers for the Province of Westphalia. Civil Affairs Detachments in Holland were disbanded and officers were transferred to other detachments of the British Military Government in Germany for disposal. We needed ten relief and welfare officers but only one was posted as relief and welfare officer - Major Yuille of the Canadian Army - the others were posted to fill other vacancies. We protested to the Executive Branch of our Provincial Detachment but the answer was that as relief and welfare officers were not yet on the War Establishment of B.A.O.R., it was impossible to post officers as such. Later in September 1945, welfare became a section of a new Public Health and Welfare Branch.

93. On 11 Jul 45 we held our regular monthly German welfare meeting. The question of repatriating 600,000 evacuated children, mothers and families scattered all over Germany and in neighbouring countries was the main topic of discussion. It was impossible to get trains for repatriation alone and the scheme was postponed because all Allied Displaced Persons first had to be moved out to make room for the incoming German refugees. The other problems of German welfare became more acute every day: lack of clothes, scarcity of food, fuel and accommodation, lack of transportation for farm products to the institutions, shortage of labour on the farms and lack of raw materials to keep the reformatory schools' factories going. It was still difficult to get buildings released by the Occupation Army to relieve the overcrowded conditions.

94. On 13 Jul 45 we visited the Archbishop of Paderborn who told me that two Polish Colonels had asked if it was possible to have 50 Polish Priests for Polish Displaced Persons Camps. Most of the Poles had not been to Church since their evacuation from Poland at the beginning of the war. The Archbishop's role as protector of the Polish Displaced Persons had been reported to us by many reliable Poles in Westphalia. Both Caritas Verband and Innere Mission had taken care of many hundreds of thousands of Displaced Persons during their stay in Germany. On my return this request was made to Religious and Educational Branch of Control Commission, Germany, and it was granted at once. The Diocese of Paderborn had been one of the largest in Germany but now a big section was situated in the Russian Zone. The Archbishop asked us if it was possible to keep the German men working, especially those released from the Wehrmacht, because seeing them loafing or doing nothing would endanger morale. They should be kept busy so they would not have time to think about Nazism or new subversive ideas. He claimed that Germany had paid dear enough for the National Socialism and that he did not wish something similar to replace it.

95. Hamm, one of the most important railway junctions in Germany, had been bombed almost every week during the last year of the war. The Marinstift Hospital, one of the largest in the district, had suffered severely from air raids, only one section being suitable for hospitalization - the eastward on the main floor. On the day we visited the institution it was raining and the water was pouring onto the patients' beds and all over the place. To remedy this situation eight huts were later released by the Town Major at Beckum. On the same day, we visited the bunkers and shelters which were used for travelling mothers and children under the supervision of the German Red Cross for medical care, nursing and administration and found them in perfect condition.

REMOVING NAZI PERSONNEL

96. On 18 Jul 45 I visited the Famous Brown Sister's School, the Wimbern Hospital, near the town of Menden. The Brown Sisters were a National Socialist Welfare Sisterhood, a party organization of N.S.D.A.P. but they were called Brown Sisters because their custom was to wear brown dresses like Nuns. Their purpose was sooner or later to remove the religious influence in this field by replacing the confessional Sisters with nurses grounded in Nazi ideology. Upon my arrival, the hospital was in charge of a Polish Director. Inquiries proved that he had been brought from Poland, in January 1945, to be attached to the Hospital staff and through the intrigue of the Polish Liaison Officer at B.A.O.R. he had displaced the former director after the Germans surrendered. He was charged with being a notorious Nazi collaborator in Poland who had been sent to Western Germany before the Russian advance. During my stay in the hospital, I found out that the Nazi ideology was still going on. Questioning a few displaced persons, patients in the hospital, I discovered that there were still some of the Sisters greeting each other with "Heil Hitler". I informed the Chief Doctor that this custom must cease forthwith; he protested that he knew nothing of it. He was told that the Nazi teaching must cease, a sample of all the text books be given to me and all the Nursing Sisters' books be placed under lock and key at once. Warning was given that the first one caught giving the Nazi greeting was to be severely dealt with. Fragebogen were handed out to all staff and personnel to be filled in as soon as possible.

97. Upon the arrival of the Americans, the Chief Doctor had been arrested and shot by the Americans and the Chief Nurse suspended because their brutal treatment of German patients. The Chief Nurse however was still on the staff, never dismissed and always raising trouble in the hospital, so I had her fired at once and out she went. Both of them had practiced sterilization on patients and had a few murders to their credit. The staff had never been Fragebogen or screened. Upon my arrival in Munster, I reported the case to the Chief of Public Health Branch and to Educational Branch. All the books were carefully screened, every one condemned and found unfit for democracy. I visited the Public Safety Officer of our Detachment, who could hardly believe what I had told him. Ten days later, I went back to the hospital to collect the Fragebogens, dismissing the Polish Doctor and replacing him by a German. The former had acted like a dictator since our arrival and had not reported to the Military Government the conditions existing at the hospital. Every Fragebogen had been carefully screened by the Public Safety Officer of our Detachment. Of 60 on the staff, 25 of the most notorious were at once dismissed. The new director made up a list of people to be dismissed on account of anti-religious opinions and Nazi fanaticism. Many patients had died at the hospital without seeing a clergyman because some nurses had refused them the visit of a priest or pastor.

98. A few weeks later, I paid a visit to see if the orders had been carried out only to find out that

some of the offenders were still there. I found out that a British Medical Brigadier had ordered that nobody could be dismissed without his consent. I went to see him and explained the situation but nothing was done. Finally one day the Public Safety Officer sent me back the fragebogens saying that the case was closed. I was greatly disappointed but when the Educational Branch found out about the case it was another story. Later, I heard that most of the staff had been replaced except the chief doctor and a few of the original group. It took patience but I had the place finally cleaned of the Nazis.

REPATRIATION OF EVACUATED CHILDREN AND MOTHERS

99. On 19 Jul 45 a special meeting was held under the authority of the Military Government, Welfare and Transportation Branches, and all the German Welfare Organizations concerning the repatriation of Westphalian children and mothers who had been evacuated to other Zones. The following groups were represented: Provincial Welfare, German Red Cross, Innere Mission, Caritas Verband, Social Democratic Worker's Welfare and Evangelical Hilfswerk. A scheme was to be submitted by all the German welfare organizations as soon as possible and forwarded for approval to the Military Government. It was specified that the Reichbahn (German Railways) were not to loan or move a train without our approval. I explained clearly to them that food for the Evacuees had to be provided from German sources. The German Red Cross was in charge of the trains and the other welfare organizations were subordinate to them. The hour of departure from the entraining point, and of arrival at the main detraining point in each district, and all requests for train movements all were to be cleared through the Welfare Officer of the Military Government.

100. Written instructions were provided and everything was explained very clearly so no mistakes could be made through ignorance. When you explain something to a German, you have to be very explicit otherwise he will take advantage of you. I warned them that requests for trains should be made in a certain restricted period of time and that it was still impossible to repatriate children and mothers from Austria, Hungary and the Russian Zone. For the present, requests for travelling permits would be granted as soon as possible for Innere Mission and Caritas Verband representatives to make agreements about repatriation of children and mothers in the American and French Zones, Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark and other parts of the British Zone. Their duty was to choose assembly points, and prepare lists of refugees and their destinations.

101. A few weeks later, the plan was submitted to 1st Corps, where it was well understood that train movement orders should be handed over by the Railway Officer to the German Railways with an authorization letter from the Military Government. Due to the shortage of coaches and locomotives the movement of the evacuees had to be carefully synchronized with D.P. moves. The operation took over two months finishing about the end of October.

The German Red Cross was in charge of the trains. To each train was attached a hospital car to take care of the sick and a field kitchen to feed the Evacuees. Time tables were arranged for detraining them as close as possible to their destinations. In each town Caritas Verband and Innere Mission had set up a special welfare committee to receive the children and mothers. For those who had no home to go to camps were set up until a home could be found. During the war the chief function of the German Red Cross had been the transporting of casualties, civilian and military, throughout the Reich and the Society was now used to assist in the distribution of refugees to Kreis from the dispersal camps in various Regierung Bezirke (Governmental District). They also possessed a competent nursing service and were used to provide staffs for assisting German Medical Officers at all stages during the handling of the refugees from Poland.

102. All this was not achieved without some confusion. One morning a train with 1500 children evacuated from the American Zone arrived in the city of Recklinghausen without any warning. An inquiry was held but as usual nobody knew anything of it. On another occasion, I received a telephone from 1st Corps at Iserlohn saying that a train had been stopped at the border of the American Zone going to fetch evacuated children in Bavaria. I gave orders to hold the train until further notice and at once summoned all the Directors of Welfare Organizations to my office. I found that Provincial Welfare and Caritas Verband had gone to the Reichbahn at Bielefeld, requesting a train, saying that Capt LaBrosse had given the authority for the train movement. I paraded the Welfare Directors to the Commanding Officer of our Provincial Detachment, who warned them that the next time Military Government Orders were not respected they would be dismissed and sent to jail.

103. As the refugees problems became more acute every day, a new Branch was formed at Internal Administration and Communication Division called the Refugees Branch to handle the Germans who were expelled from the East of Germany; over 2,000,000 of whom were to be moved into the British Zone. This new Branch moved them from dispersal camps in the British Zone to the different Provinces, Westphalia alone taking half a million. The new committee handled not only refugees but also released German P.S.O.W. and greatly reduced the work of the Welfare Branch of the Military Government.

NAZI YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

104. 1. Jugenvolk (Young People)
The Nazi education of the child started with Jugenvolk which all the boys and girls joined at the age of ten.

2. Hitler's Jugend (Hitler's Youth)
From the Jugenvolk the boys passed to Hitler's Jugend at the age of 14. They remained members of this organization until they were 19 years old, when they served six months in the Labour Service. The indoctrination of the young

men with Nazi ideals was the chief function of this organization.

3. Bunddeutschermaidchen (League of the German Girls)

The girls on reaching the age of 14 became members of this league, which corresponded to the Hitler's Jugend for boys. At the age of 19, the girls usually served six months in the Labour Service.

4. Studentenbund (Students Associations)

The boys and girls who continued their studies in the universities after the age of 19, when they would normally have gone to the Labour Service or after they had served their six months there, continued to be supervised and controlled by this association.

5. Arbeit Dienst (Labour Service)

Boys and girls on reaching the age of 19 were sent to Labour Service Camps where they remained six months. The boys did useful work in drainage, reforestation, road-building and settlement. The girls worked either in domestic service or on the farms. Intense indoctrination in Nazi ideals was carried on in the evenings and weekends. The boys who proved diligent and showed promise of being leaders were appointed the posts in the Party and Government Services. It was estimated that this service took half a million young people off the labour market every year. The boys then served their time as soldiers under the conscription laws, while the girls returned to domestic life or to civil employment. No girl was allowed to hold a remunerative post until she had served her six months in the Labour Camp. All men and women entering paid service had to join the Labour Front and become a member of the compulsory occupational Estates that controlled their particular callings. All Trade Unions and Employers' Associations and all unorganized employees and employers were compelled to join the Labour Front. The Employers were to "lead"; the workers to follow. While the employers forfeited some of their rights as owners they continued to direct the business, were entitled to the profits accruing therefrom and had certain powers conferred on them by the State.

AIMS OF NAZI EDUCATION

105. The chief object of Nazi education was to supplant family influence, secure control of the adolescent mind, and to train the youth of Germany to be blind devotees to Hitler. In his speech of May 1937, Hitler promised to dispose of paternal opposition to his system as follows:

We will take the children away and train and educate them to become new Germans. We will take them away when they are 10 years old and bring them up in the spirit of the community until they are 18. They shall not escape us. They will join the Party, the Storm Troopers, the Black Guards or other

formations, or go into the factories or offices. Later they will do military service. Who shall dare say that such training will not produce a new Nation?

All Nazi schooling was designed to produce a new generation of soldiers and young mothers ignorant of conditions outside of Germany, holding grotesque opinions about other nations and leaders, but fanatically believing in Hitler as the God-sent saviour whom it was their privilege to serve. On Hitler's accession to power the teaching profession was ruthlessly screened and the first qualification for admission to its ranks became the possession of a Party ticket. The resulting shortage of teachers was never quite made good, even by an influx of inferior teachers but the Nazis did not bother about this, merely curtailing the schooling period.

106. The complete mental Nazification of the growing generation is a factor with which we shall have to reckon long after Hitler is overthrown. Every school subject was taught first and foremost from a political standpoint with a political object. A vast number of scientific works were proscribed in 1933 as being contrary to the new doctrine and the writings of learned Jewish authors were publicly burnt. In their place new textbooks had been issued which presented everything - history, literature, even mathematics and science - from a racial standpoint, designed to glorify Germany and to train the children to become unthinking followers of Hitler in the coming conquest of the world. Two songs had been always sung, not merely as patriotic ditties, but as a profession of faith - "Deutschland Uber Alles" and another the last line of which was "Heute gehort uns Deutschland unter morgen die ganze welt" ("the world will be ours to-morrow as Germany to-day"). Any attempt on the part of the parents in the homes to inculcate any other principles, Christian or democratic, was vigorously checked. The children were ordered to report to the authorities if their parents made the slightest criticism of the official doctrine, so that an atmosphere of fear, suspicion and mutual distrust often grew up in families where formerly the greatest affection prevailed. Parents were ordered to answer, when asked by the children, "To whom do we really belong"?, only "You belong to Hitler". Nazi education was designed to turn the male youth into fanatical warriors, and the female youth into no less fanatical mothers of a further generation of fanatical warriors.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN YOUTH MOVEMENT

107. On our arrival the whole Nazi Youth Movement had been dissolved. It was agreed that while Youth Movements came properly under the Educational Branch, their activities were largely concerned with those of Welfare and our section found it desirable to have some cooperation from the few democratic youth movements which had not been nazified. The programmes of these movements were carefully studied, screened and considered by the Military

Government before they were allowed to carry on. The two chief groups allowed to continue were "The Falcon" and "The Greater Dortmund Youth Movement". It was specified by the Military Government and understood by the Youth Movements that former leaders of Hitler's Youth, members of the N.S.D.A.P. and affiliated organizations as well as ex-officers of the Wehrmacht and police were to be excluded. The avowed purpose of both groups was to gather working people of all races and religions and educate them to be good citizens of a democratic State. They hoped to awaken in the young working people all the positive elements of character, decency, dignity and a taste for beauty. Friendship, cooperation, gallantry and solidarity were accepted watchwords.

108. One of the main problems was to find rooms for their clubs, as space was very restricted in the district. They asked for the release of the Youth Hostels, which were numerous in Westphalia, but they had been requisitioned for the Evacuees from Poland, and usually the movements had to find their own accommodation. The Youth Movements asked to have a representative on the Provincial Welfare Committee but this request was refused by the Educational Branch at 918 Military Government, who supervised both movements.

109. In September 1945, 80 boys and girls met in Dortmund to form the first circle of the Falcon Movement. This organization, founded in Vienna in 1928, had seen its activities reduced to a minimum during the Hitler regime but had retained its democratic principles and had always been respected. The Falcons were supported by the Social Democrats and had the advantage of keen and capable leaders. Their weakness was a tendency to act high handedly. They proposed to teach democracy through work and play but disapproved of ball-room dancing at their meetings and political discussion among members under 18. They asked Welfare for many items: musical instruments, games of all kinds, literature and text books, material for carpentry, hiking material. A request to be allowed to wear coloured uniforms, flags, etc, was refused partly because of shortages but also because it seemed a possible start for a para-military organization. The Sunday before Christmas 1945, The Falcons presented a "Sunday Morning Music Concert" with the Youth Music Band and young actors of the municipal theatre, which was attended by over 800 people. During the Christmas Season they distributed hand-made toys and all kinds of biscuits to several thousand destitute children. Some groups had made doll theatres and arranged doll-plays for the children. The Falcons had worked prodigiously for their Christmas programme and had raised enough funds to pay their expenses. The members were very enthusiastic about the help given by the British Red Cross and seemed very happy. This was not strange for Youth Movements had been always popular in Germany, even before Hitler set up his elaborate programme.

110. The Greater Dortmund Youth Movement, the chief rival of the Falcons, was founded by the leaders of a group which had been absorbed by the National Socialist Welfare in 1933. The programme of the Greater Dortmund was more

serious and up-to-date than that of the Falcons. They insisted that no youth in their movement should be bound to the politics of any party, but that all should work at the important task of preparing the way for a new democratic form of life. Their groups met twice a week and studied music, arts, languages and foreign affairs. The Greater Dortmund Youth Movement was in the organization phase and their activities were somewhat limited but with the passage of time both organizations may help to form a good German democratic youth. It will be pretty hard for certain young Germans to lose their mentality of superiority even among their country-men. Both Military Government and British Red Cross were surprised at the progress made in so short a time.

111. There was considerable tension between the movements; The Greater Dortmund Youth Movement claiming that The Falcons were using their organization as a training ground for party leaders. Inquiries made by the Military Government into the matter declared that the claims were unjustified but special instructions were issued by the Military Government to keep a close check on the activities of all Youth Movements. This supervision was later turned over to the British Red Cross when they started to work in the Zone.

112. The Catholics and Evangelical Churches had not asked permission from the Military Government to reopen their Youth Movements when I left. Caritas Verband had opened a camp near Munster, where over 4,000 youths from the Wehrmacht had been sent to be re-educated in Church principles and democratic ideals. There were a few of these camps in Westphalia and the churches had really done some good work there. Both Churches were very suspicious of these new Youth Movements fearing that they might detract from the work of the Churches as Hitler's Youth had done before the War.

FURSORGE (PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RELIEF)

113. Public Welfare programmes in Germany included all governmental activities for the prevention and treatment of dependency, neglect, delinquency, crime and physical and mental handicaps. It also embraced the various types of assistance, such as general assistance, work relief, assistance to special groups and the new types of aid made necessary by the war. The legal framework for all public welfare was provided by the Constitution of Weimar Republic. The two basic laws of public welfare remained under the Nazi Regime and formed the framework within which welfare work was carried out although changes had been made since 1933 in regard to administrative centralization and the conception under which it was extended. The treatment of the needy was no longer determined by the individual's need but by the value of the individual to the community as judged by the National Socialist Standard. The Nazis had centralized welfare so they could control it more easily. The State and District welfare agencies had charge of public assistance on the basis of the Third Tax Emergency Order of 14 Feb 24. Their resources consisted

of Federal contributions made on the basis of budgetary allocations of the proceeds of certain taxes, etc, and subsidies from the Reich, the States and communities.

114. Upon our arrival, special instructions were received from the Finance and Property Control Branch of Internal Administration and Communication Division of Control Commission Germany, that the German Provincial Welfare should continue to pay the existing rates of relief until further notice. Military Government would not issue new rates until a survey had been made of the money in banks and of how many people were working or unemployed. Heavy industry had been destroyed or paralysed when we arrived, and trade was almost at a complete standstill. To check the black market and to prevent the cost of living from rising unduly, Military Government established a price control board for food, housing, etc. Nearly 50% of the population of the Ruhr area was receiving relief, and the lack of housing facilities and the offers of Allied soldiers to buy certain luxury goods made inflation a real danger. The ordinary fursorge rates during the Nazi regime had been as follows:

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------|------------|-----------|---|---|
| (a) Man and wife | 40 | Reich Mark | per month | | |
| (b) Child over 16 | 20-25 | " | " | " | " |
| (c) Child under 16 | 15-20 | " | " | " | " |
| (d) Rent | 50 | " | " | " | " |
| (e) The local relief official could make additional allowances for food, fuel, light and clothing repairs. | | | | | |

Rates of fursorge were formerly dependent on the standing of the individual in the Nazi Party; disabled S.S. and soldiers' widows getting the highest rates. A small family in a country village could receive more money than a big family in an urban centre, if they were good Nazis. In fact many members of the Party had never worked, receiving a special rate of fursorge as salary. A searching inquiry had been made by the Military Government into the rates paid by the fursorge and it was decided to establish a "Means Test". Previous deduction of a special tax on working people and on those who had a specified income was made to maintain the fursorge.

115. Military Government in the British Zone was trying to produce a balanced budget, from provincial estimates and fursorge requirements would take one-eighth of the total revenue of the Zone. In every province there were variations in the rules governing the payment of fursorge and the committee wished the provinces to submit proposals for:

- (a) a minimum universal rate of fursorge,
- (b) the maximum amount which any individual might have in property, invisible or visible assets, and still be eligible for fursorge.

The Provincial Welfare authorities were given three weeks to submit these facts and figures. It was understood

that there could be no modification of a fixed rate and while the different provinces had different conditions to take into account, Westphalia fixed a sum necessary to purchase food allowed on the ration cards and a little over for other non-rationed purchases. The existing rate for an adult was 30 to 40 Reich Mark per week and 20 for children per week. Questionnaires were forwarded to every Military Government detachment for the German officials to fill in the present rates. Special rates were suspended forthwith and only the regular rate was to be paid until further notice. See Appx "D"

116. A month after the sending of the "Means Test" to German Officials, reports began to come in and they were checked by our branch, a copy kept for our records and the others sent to Public Welfare Branch at Internal Administration and Communication Division for further consideration until a minimum and maximum rate could be approved by Control Commission. German welfare authorities reported that there had been no recrimination at the reduction of the rates among the population. It was the policy of the Control Commission, Germany, that the rates in the Ruhr should be raised and those in the rural district decreased because of the cost of living and the destroyed areas. In the rural districts undamaged towns got the same rates as rural districts. Towns such as Munster, Paderborn, etc, which had been completely destroyed were to receive the same rate as towns in the Ruhr.

VICTIMS OF NAZISM

117. In the fall of 1945 a few ex-inmates of concentration camps had formed a Wiedergutmachtung Komitee (Restitution Committee for the ex-victims of Nazism) with their Headquarters in the City of Munster and branches in other cities. The members of the new association were all persons, who had been in concentration camps, Jews, priests, half-Jews or Germans who had been imprisoned because they listened to the B.B.C., carried out espionage or sabotage, deserted the Wehrmacht or made contact with foreign persons. Their claims may have been justified but they seem to have used Welfare as camouflage to form a new political party. The committee had been operating for over a month, without the knowledge of the Military Government, and some members of the committee had already expelled German families from their homes, taking possession of their furniture and personal belongings for their members with a special identification card, and although the only identification card recognized by the Military Government and the Military Authorities was the one issued by the German Civilian Government approved by the Military Government, the president of the committee had declared that his cards had been approved and recognized by the Military Government as identification cards. A special paragraph was written at the bottom of the card saying that the bearer of the card had priority on food, clothes, fuel, housing, positions, etc.

118. We were warned of these activities by the British Field Security Section in Munster, for many German families had complained to the Section and a few of their members had been summoned to the Security Officer for information and when asked for their identification they had produced their membership card saying that the Welfare Branch of the Military Government had approved of it. We at once denied this and had the members brought to our branch for further questioning. We warned them that these cards were worthless and I summoned Herr Kunz, the president of the committee, and warned him that practice of issuing cards must cease forthwith and the committee be dissolved. They had been promising all kinds of impossible things to their members. Two German Ps.O.W. working in a labour unit had been told that on application to their Officer Commanding with their membership cards they would be discharged from the Wehrmacht at once. See Appx "E"

119. The committee levied no fees but the directors appeared to have blackmailed the German officials to finance their movement. We found out after inquiries that these directors had been known as dangerous politicians before 1933 and the Nazis had taken no chances with them. One of them, a member of the old political party before 1933, had joined the Nazis and made a collection amongst the old party members saying it was for their old party to fight Nazism. He brought his collection to the Nazi officials, where a check proved that he had kept half of the money. He was sentenced to 12 years in a concentration camp.

120. A few weeks later, their representative in Dortmund presented an application to form a local Restitution Committee under the Military Government. In the meantime, we had received a confidential letter from our Headquarters in Bunde that soon a Zonal Policy - No. 20 - was to be released for ex-inmates of concentration camps and the formation of the Special Kreis Assistance Committees. I explained to Herr Geboni the special procedure that had to be followed to have his committee approved and pointed out that till he complied with the rules it was impossible to allow the society to operate. After all the warnings he went to see the Oberprasident (The German Governor of the Province) to have his committee approved by the Military Government. The Oberprasident had given him some encouragement but now he found that Herr Geboni was trying to make a political capital from this organization for the provincial elections in the summer of 1946. This was confirmed by the Public Safety Branch who reported after our inquiry that the whole thing was a scheme to form a new political party using welfare as a camouflage. See Appxs "F" - "J"

121. In November 1945 we issued Zone Policy No. 20 - Special Assistance for ex-inmates of concentration camps - with instructions for formation of the Kreis Special Assistance Committees. As this instruction was complicated we were obliged to explain it very clearly to the German authorities. Copies of the instructions were forwarded to every Military Government Detachment in the province, and through the German Civilian

Government under the Oberprasident of Westphalia to the mayor of every city, town or village. A special proclamation was posted all over the province in English and German notifying ex-inmates of concentration camps, etc, that they had a period of two calendar months to present their claims to the Kreis Special Assistance Committee. The German Governmental authorities thought at first that this proclamation was only to apply to those who had actually been in concentration camps, but we explained that it applied to all those who had been victims of Nazis persecutions - those who had been sent to jail or other institutions of confinement as well as their widows, orphans and dependents. For example Herr Gronosky, who for years had been the Oberprasident of the province of Westphalis, was dismissed without pension when Hitler came into power and became completely destitute. This scheme was intended to help those who had suffered, not only on humanitarian grounds, but also to show the Germans that those who had suffered in their opposition to Nazism would be reasonably recompensed. In each Kreis of the province the Burgeirmeister or Landrat was to set up a committee called the Kreis Special Assistance Committee. Military Government was responsible to see that these committees were set up, that every member was fragebogen and screened by the Public Safety Officer of the Kreis Detachment. See Appx "K"

122. A few weeks later, I asked the Oberprasident about formation of the committees only to learn that nothing had been done yet. He stated that he made a special appendix of 20 pages to our Instruction No. 20. When I asked who had given permission to change these instructions he said that this was a German matter. I explained him that the matter was already complicated without making it worse but we forwarded a copy of his appendix to our Headquarters branch at Internal Administration and Communications Division where it was rejected. Other provincial committees had already begun to function so I instructed all our Military Government Detachments that the committees should be put to work forthwith and reports forwarded to our Headquarters.

123. A week later, the Oberprasident came into our office to know if it would be possible to form a Provincial Board of Appeal to revise the decision of the Kreis Special Assistance Committee if the claimant felt the decision of the Committee adverse. I explained that claimants had the right of appeal to the local Military Government Detachment within 14 days of an adverse decision being given. Detachments receiving these appeals could either uphold or reverse the decision of the Kreis Special Assistance Committee. Military Government might intervene on their own authority and quash any decision of the committee without appeal. If the local Detachment found it impossible to give a decision the case should be referred to the Provincial Welfare Branch Headquarters. A few days later, the British Executive Officer for German Control came to my office asking authorization for the Oberprasident to form his Provincial Board of Appeal as the wish of the Commanding Officer. I explained to Major Emck that the

instructions were not political but Military Government rulings and referred his Officer Commanding to our Headquarters in Bunde who refused the local board.

OPERATION OF THE OFFICIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEES

124. The Committees consisted of: one legal representative (chairman), one member of the public, one ex-inmate of concentration camp or, in a Kreis where such a person is not available, one person who had actively opposed the Nazi regime or suffered at its hands, or a member of the Kreis nominated council. Our committees operated very well, only two appeals were submitted to our office and they were very special cases. The few members found unacceptable to Military Government were at once replaced. The great question was eligibility for assistance. An ex-inmate of concentration camp, providing that he was not living in a Displaced Persons Camp, was eligible for special assistance,

- (a) if he was a displaced person of undetermined nationality;
- (b) was a displaced person of a state which had remained neutral during the war;
- (c) was an enemy or ex-enemy national who had been sentenced for imprisonment for any one or more of the following reasons:
 - (i) because he offended against Nazi laws or racial doctrines,
 - (ii) because he had religious convictions or belonged to a religious organization which conflicted with Nazi laws or policy,
 - (iii) because he belonged to a political party actively opposed to the Nazis or resisted joining the party.

125. A special clause had been inserted to prevent the following categories from applying for this relief:

- (a) ex-active members of the party;
- (b) mutinous members of the Wehrmacht;
- (c) those detained solely because they had had a sectional quarrel with the Nazi party, e.g. persons detained for being involved, or detained in connection with recent purges of the Nazi Party. (In very exceptional cases Military Government approved Special Assistance for such people.)
- (d) Those who had been detained under the German criminal Laws. (Many persons had

been detained for reasons other than those for which they were officially charged and these persons could apply to Military Government for a review of their cases;

- (e) Those who, while in a concentration camp, assisted in the punishment or persecution of other inmates;
- (f) Those, who, since the occupation, had been tried by a military or civilian court and sentenced to imprisonment. (Persons of this category who appealed to Military Government were judged on their merits and the claims of a person imprisoned for a small matter like a breach of curfew in mitigating circumstances might well be upheld.)

126. Claims were to be made only to the committee of the Kreis in which the applicant normally resided. This made it easier for the committee to verify the claims. The burden of proof of eligibility for special benefits rested with the claimants, whose claims had to be endorsed by one of the following:

- (a) Any British Officer of Military Government serving with a Kreis Detachment;
- (b) German Police Authorities;
- (c) Priests, or Ministers of religion;
- (d) Judicial officials, lawyers, notaries.

As similar organizations had been set up in other zones, it was easy for them to verify the true position of the claimants.

127. A successful claimant was entitled to the following:

- (a) Rations as medium heavy-workers;
- (b) Priority on housing for himself and his family;
- (c) Priority of employment if found fit for work (many came back in such state that they will be never able to work again);
- (d) Financial aid of 50% more than the ordinary Public Assistance Relief Rate, with a reasonable allowance for rent, to apply to the whole family of the claimant. If the claimant refused to work he could be submitted to a Means Test. The duration of relief was 26 weeks. to be continued only after a Means Test unless the applicant proved his inability to work. Persons who qualified and had suffered physical and mental injury of permanent or semi-permanent nature were eligible for an indefinite period subject to annual review.

Statistics showing the number of applications, number interviewed, number awaiting interview and number to whom benefits had been granted as at the last day of the month, were forwarded by the Kreis Special Assistance Committee through Welfare channels to Province level. From there they were passed into British channels and forwarded to Internal Administration and Communications Division (Public Health and Welfare Branch) pending the formation of a statical Bureau at Main Headquarters Control Commission for Germany. For text of Inst. No.20, See Appx "L"

PLANS FOR COMMUNAL FEEDING

128. On 20 Aug 45 a meeting was held at the City Hall of Dortmund for all the Welfare Organizations in the Ruhr District, twelve towns in all being represented. The main problem of this meeting was to find a way to feed people if no coal was to be released to individuals for the coming winter of 1945. They discussed means to establish communal kitchens which could provide a balanced diet of a higher caloric value than family cooking could provide under the present circumstances. A standard of 1800 calories was considered a desirable figure to establish. In the course of the meeting I asked for an outline of the proposals for my personal consideration as I well knew some difficulties which would arise. For example, Military Government had frozen all kitchen equipment for inventory purposes and nothing could be done until release was effected.

129. The meeting approved the appointment of Dr Grosse-Boyman, who had been in charge of communal feeding during the bombing of the Ruhr-Westphalian District, as director with other directors of welfare associations of the Ruhr District and myself as representative of Military Government to assist him. The general plan, which was drawn up and operated by German authorities under Military Government supervision, called for the establishment of public soup kitchens, communal kitchens and field kitchens, the latter being considered important in case of epidemics which might require isolation of large groups. A weekly rate of three and a half Reich Marks was laid down as the official price for meals.

130. The food office were prepared to grant certain additional rations beyond the usual allotments for charitable institutions in a community. The expansion of the public kitchens was possible, but the Germans seemed to be too proud to go to those kitchens for food. The so-called Community kitchens, destined to feed professional people, were more popular than the public kitchens. The heavy and medium workers in the factories were taken care of by the works kitchen under Military Government supervision but there was not sufficient care of the normal consumption rations of the ordinary workers who were without cooking apparatus of their own, or lived too far from their working places. Military Government was asked to give special consideration to the expansion of the community kitchens.

131. On 27 Aug 45 another meeting was held at the City Hall of Recklinghausen where all the representatives of the welfare associations were present. The scheme for communal feeding was submitted by Dr Grosse-Boyman and his welfare associates for consideration by Military Government. A long list of requirements was handed over for approval by Military Government. The most urgent items were cooking vessels, stoves, insulated vessels for food transportation, kitchen installations, fuel for stoves, staff rations, transport, financial requirements, etc. We made a short survey of the situation and decided that in view of the size of the scheme it would be better to delay communal feeding until Military Government had given the matter serious consideration. Meanwhile hospitals and charitable organizations, which had soup kitchens and communal feeding centres for the poor, old, infirmed, and for those having no cooking facilities, should continue their work. To give an idea of the size of the scheme the following excerpts from the requirements are presented:

- (a) 546 Stoves.
- (b) 18,200 vessels for transportation
- (c) 90,000 kilos coal per day
- (d) 182 chief cooks
- (e) 1093 cooks
- (f) 7,500 assistants
- (g) 182 5 ton lorries
- (h) 250,320 kilos of potatoes daily
- (i) 65,520 kilos vegetables.

The weekly expense of feeding 950,000 people per day was estimated at 182,000 Reich Marks.

132. Upon my return to our detachment, I submitted the scheme to the North German Coal Control Branch for consideration. They judged the scheme too big and referred it to the Headquarters of the North German Control Commission for Germany at Essen. There we were told the scheme must first have the approval of the Food and Agriculture Headquarters at Minden, Headquarters for the whole British Zone. I went to Minden and had an interview with the Director of the Food and Agriculture Branch who refused to take the responsibility. Every branch of Military Government seemed to be in favour of it but nobody wanted to place the plan before General Montgomery who alone could have made the decision.

133. I warned the Food and Agriculture and other branches of Military Government that sooner or later this scheme would have to be adopted. As I travelled through the Province, visiting and inspecting institutions, I saw thousands of Germans going to the farmers, buying food and reselling it at black market prices in the big cities. Military Government authorities warned the German Civilian Government of the matter but it was impossible for them to cope with the situation due to the lack of police to watch the roads for delinquents. Rural Districts had more food - in fact certain districts had a surplus of food which they could not export due to the lack of transportation, particularly refrigerator cars to move meat and fish to the urban areas. On 18

Dec 45 a special meeting was held at the Office of the Deputy Military Governor (British Zone), located in the Tax House at Lubbecke, concerning communal feeding for the whole Zone. Representatives of the Welfare and Food and Agriculture Branches from every province in the Zone were present. It was agreed that communal feeding could be adopted better on a local than a Zone or Provincial basis. It was recommended for the most seriously damaged Ruhr areas where domestic cooking facilities had been largely destroyed. Any scheme for a larger area was abandoned. There was a great lack of containers so I made a plea that all Wehrmacht field kitchens be released as soon as possible for communal feeding. Special fuel allowances were made by the North German Coal Control Commission and Welfare Organizations were notified of the procedure to obtain extra fuel for this purpose. See Appx "M"

134. In spite of those local efforts food calorie values decreased steadily all winter until by April 1946 they had fallen to between 1,000 and 1,200 calories per day. When I left Germany early in April 1946, Military Government was still seriously considering plans to put the communal feeding into operation. If this scheme had been adopted in the early stage of occupation, the German food calories need never have fallen to 1,000 calories a day. Both food and fuel would have been used more economically and the people would have benefitted.

135. As a result of our reports to the North German Coal Control Commission Headquarters at Essen a fuel allowance of 75 kilos of coal per month was allocated to each member of each family in the Ruhr District. Later it was decided by Internal Administration and Communications Division of Control Commission for Germany that fuel allowances for Institutions should be made by Public Health and Welfare in each Province, through the German Coal Control Branch, at Provincial level. The allocation was 75 kilos of coal per month for each bed in each institution. Requests for coal were to be made through the Landrat of each Kreis and forwarded to our Branch for approval. Rural towns and villages were getting their fuel from the woods located nearby.

SCHOOL FEEDING

136. On 15 Jan 46, a special meeting was held at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture to discuss school feeding which had become one of the most urgent problems in our zone especially in Westphalia and Hamburg. The meeting wanted to increase the ration by 300 to 400 more calories to 2,000 per day for many children had so little resistance that they had been unable to attend. The scheme was to be operated jointly by Educational and Welfare Branches of the Military Government. Welfare was to provide all cooking apparatus and fuel, and Education to arrange for food to be imported from England and sold to the German provincial authorities for schools only. It was to be resold to the German scholars at a very low price.

DISTRIBUTION

for action: 229/305 P Mil Gov Det, Hannover
307/308 P " " " Munster
312/806 P " " " Kiel
714/719 P " " " Dusseldorf
609/610 L/R " " " Hamburg
HQ British Troops Berlin Mil Gov

Copies to:

1 Corps District (MIL GOV)
8 Corps District (MIL GOV)
30 Corps District (MIL GOV)

HQ BAOR

G (SD)
British Red Cross
UNRRA

137. We visited Colonel Wilson, R.C.O. at 1st Corps, in charge of all the captured stores, to get captured cooking apparatus for this purpose. Special authority was granted to have all the cooking apparatus from Salvage Depot released to German Welfare Organizations. Thousands of thermos vessels were needed to transport food from the central kitchen in each town to the schools and special permission was granted by the Hardware Section of Industry Branch to requisition German hardware firms to manufacture as many as we needed for our scheme. This scheme worked fairly well for 400,000 scholars who had schools to attend. Most of the original buildings in the big towns had been destroyed by air raids and any available structures or huts were being used as schools. School children between the ages of 6 and 12 were given 400 calories a day and those between the ages of 12 and 16 500 calories above their regular rations. At first the supplementary calories consisted of milk and biscuits, later a good pulse soup with meat stock every morning for six days a week. Our branch worked closely with the Educational and food and Agriculture Branches. German welfare organizations were in charge of feeding in the schools: Caritas Verband for Catholic Schools, Innere Mission for Protestant Schools, Arbeit Wohlfahrt and German Red Cross for other schools. The teacher of each class was responsible for the health of the children and was instructed to avoid waste and to see that each child had got the share that he had paid for. In the beginning, a weekly inspection of the school kitchens was made jointly by Education and Welfare Branches. Later it came under the supervision of the German School Authorities for the Province. The International, British Swedish and Swiss Red Cross had undertaken the task of feeding children until they reached school age. See below paras 148-9.

138. Early in February 1946 I visited Econ 6 (Food and Agriculture Branch), Headquarters for the whole Zone, about the shortage of milk in our province. The Colonel in charge explained that there was plenty of milk in the province but the farmers had no containers to send it to the cities and used it to feed the pigs. There were millions of pounds of butter in storage but no wax paper or containers to put the butter in. There were no jars or containers for millions of pounds of marmalade so they had the German prisoners of war clean millions of glass mines of their explosives and used them as containers. To add to our worries early in February 1946 we had the Weser River flood, which inundated the valley and destroyed millions of tons of food.

RED CROSS SURVEY OF THE SITUATION

139. At the beginning of September 1945 Mr. J.C. Wood of the British Red Cross Headquarters at Vlotho was attached as liaison officer for the Province of Westphalia to the Public Health and Welfare Branch of our Detachment. His mission was to make a survey of the existing conditions in the Westphalian Ruhr in view of possible deployment of British Red Cross teams in the

area. Before his departure for the Ruhr district, Mr. Wood had contacted every director of each German welfare organization to get personal views on the existing conditions, and letters of introduction to their representatives in the Ruhr. For two weeks he had gathered information and studied the situation on first hand. Previous reports to the British Red Cross Headquarters had pointed out the gravity of the Ruhr problems and asked for assistance. Mr Wood's report indicated 1,250,000 persons living in twelve towns where the houses were between 24% and 74% destroyed or damaged, people short of coal, clothing, drugs, transport and seldom getting their full rations. The general situation of the civilian population had improved a little since our arrival; German welfare organizations had really done good work in taking care of those institutions but there was also the general civilian population to be taken care of. The Officer Commanding of our branch, Lt-Col Rea, recommended that the first teams should concentrate on the Ruhr towns, which were not surrounded by rural areas and where the population was entirely dependent on the effectiveness of the local authorities and Military Government to supply their needs. Dortmund, Bochum, Gelsenkirchen, and Hagen had been selected as the four worst towns in the district. In the more rural communities private enterprise would prevent the greatest hardships.

140. The following notes on the general situation in the Ruhr appeared in both reports.

(a) Coal: Coal was the keystone of relief. Unless coal was made available in much larger quantities for essential services, town authorities said that they could not carry on. At the Constantine Mine, Bochum, there were 180,000 tons of coke and 70,000 tons of coal at the surface but it could not be touched because it was allotted for reparations to France, Holland and Belgium. Military Government commanders had tried every appeal but still could not get coal released even for essential services.

(b) Housing: The situation was desperate - many were living in cellars and air raid shelters unsuitable for the coming winter. The following remedies were suggested: Intensive reconstruction, temporary dwellings (nissen huts, etc) from Army sources, or evacuation to country districts. There were plenty of trees in Germany and lumber was available but there was no transportation. The Forest Section of the Food and Agriculture Branch had a winter scheme for cutting trees in the German forests to make wood for the summer of 1946 but that did not help now.

(c) Hospitals: Many had been destroyed or badly damaged with consequent loss of equipment. Usually there were not enough beds to accommodate current cases comfortably let alone to maintain a reserve against epidemics.

It was difficult to get drugs and dressings, sufficient staff or enough ambulances and general transport.

(d) Mass Feeding: (See also para 128-35) The scheme of mass feeding of 1,360,000 people per day was still under discussion when Mr Wood's report was presented. If carried through this would have saved a large percentage of the coal which was issued to individuals for cooking. Against that apparent saving were the considerations that home-cooking warms a room, family life is maintained, long queing-up is avoided and meals are more palatable. Communal feeding was recommended for certain classes of people: transient and needy people, people with no home cooking facilities or employed away from home and the sick, aged and crippled. Communal kitchens were already in operation in many towns for these groups.

(e) Mass Evacuation: The idea of mass evacuation of the towns was looked on with dread by the urban dwellers. "Better die here than to be the slave of a farmer" was their expression. Mary agreed to the wisdom and the need of evacuation, but said it was not for them. There lingered a distrust of their own officials and both German evacuees and refugees told us about the toughness and wickedness of the German farmer.

141. The following directive for the information of Red Cross teams was presented to a meeting of the Public Health and Welfare Branch, the British Red Cross liaison officer and the Detachment Commanders.

- (i) The needs of the big towns in order of immediate priority are:
 - (a) coal
 - (b) building materials
 - (c) assured food supply
 - (d) clothing
 - (e) medical supplies

- (ii) In view of the resources at our disposal the teams' most valuable contributions would be transport for:
 - (a) collection of food for hospitals and communal kitchens
 - (b) Hospital ambulance service
 - (c) collection and delivery of building materials for repairs
 - (d) visiting establishments
 - (e) evacuation of children and aged persons
 - (f) assistance to German Red Cross Search Bureau.

- (iii) Liaison must be maintained between German charitable and welfare organizations and Military Government.

- (iv) Full reports on conditions and developments must go to Headquarters to keep the public informed.
- (v) Mass feeding must be supervised as well as the distribution of the British Red Cross supplies (dried milk, etc) if such supplies are allowed to be distributed.
- (vi) It was up to the individual members to develop their particular sphere and, if necessary, personnel would be reshuffled to ensure that only those who were really keen to do German relief work were so used.

142. At this stage it would be absolutely useless to send teams of Relief workers only. Except in Bochum no group said that they needed help in looking after children; they had plenty of suitable personnel for that job. The driving and maintenance of vehicles was a much more valuable service but a difficulty arose from a B.A.O.R. order that no women of the Allied Forces could drive unaccompanied. Two ambulances doing 24 hour shift would require at least three men or six women so fifty per cent of the teams should be male. The teams were warned that conditions would be tough and that they must be prepared to accept bad billets, long hours and heartbreaking work with no thanks from those they were trying to help. The ability to speak German well was most important in working with Germans who do not want charity or condescension, but do appreciate willing cooperation. Mr Wood said in conclusion:

Mere repetition of such words as "Desperate plight", "intolerable conditions" will not serve to drive home the fact that unless large scale measures of relief are undertaken hundreds of thousands will be left to die among the ruins under which their families still lie buried. I believe the municipal authorities when they say they can only carry on another two months under the present conditions.

143. The following recommendations were forwarded to the British Red Cross Headquarters, to Public Health and Welfare Branch Headquarters at Internal Administration and Communications Division, Control Commission Germany and all other branches concerned for their information:

(a) One team of British Red Cross should be sent as soon as possible to each of the following towns: Dortmund, Bochum, Gelsenkirchen and Hagen.

(b) Lt-Col Rea, Officer Commanding of Public Health and Welfare Branch at our Headquarters would be notified of decisions taken by the British Red Cross.

(c) Lt-Col Rea would notify Stadtkreis Military Government Commanders as to the terms of reference under which teams would work, i.e. directly under Public Health and Welfare Branch at Provincial level and at Regierung Bezirke Detachment in conjunction with German welfare authorities.

(d) Lt-Col Rea would send a representative from each team with a written signal from 307/08 Detachment to the Town Majors concerned in time to prepare accommodation for teams.

RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS AND ORGANIZATION

144. Lt-Col K.M. Agnew, D.S.O., M.C., was the Commanding Officer of the 30 British Red Cross teams and also Chief Supervisor for the International and Swedish Red Cross teams, in the British Zone. The Headquarters, stores, equipment and supplies for the British Red Cross in the field were located in the small town of Vlotho, on the River Weser, near Bad Oeyenhausen, the Headquarters of B.A.O.R. International Red Cross, who had ten teams in the zone, also had its supplies and stores there. Mr. Burckhardt, who had been one of the Secretaries of the League of Nations, was appointed director of the International Red Cross for the British Zone and worked under Col Agnew.

145. International Red Cross supplies were transported by rail from Switzerland to Vlotho under the protection of the Allied Forces. The Swedish Red Cross Headquarters and supply stores were located in the small town of Lubecke, situated on the Baltic Sea, where they received their supplies from Sweden by ship. They had five regular teams working in the British Zone and a special team to show to the Germans how to assemble and erect portable metal huts. An agreement had been signed between the Red Cross Societies and the B.A.O.R. for the purchase of fuel and oils and the repair and maintenance of their vehicles. This saved shipping space and eliminated the danger of fire. The teams in our zone could feed 25,000 children one bowl of soup six days a week for an indefinite period. They had over 200 tons of supplies at Lubecke for the whole zone to begin with. It was wonderful to see the British, Swedish and the International Red Cross teams work with the German Red Cross like one big family. The Red Cross Societies could not do all the work but they furnished the goods and the preparation and distribution was done by the German Red Cross and other welfare organizations. The collaboration between these organizations was simply grand. By 1 Mar 46 the Province of Westphalia had 12 British, one International (Don Suisse) and two Swedish Red Cross teams so we had the situation well in hand.

WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

146. The International Red Cross, besides taking care

of the German population with its Red Cross teams, had a special staff to distribute parcels of food, drugs, etc, amongst the Allied Displaced Persons living in German camps. Millions of parcels of the Allied Red Cross Societies, which had been forwarded to the Allied Prisoners but not delivered at the end of the war, were brought to Germany for distribution. Often I wrote to the International Red Cross requesting sets of clothes for Displaced Persons living in German towns and each time the clothing parcels were accompanied by a parcel of food. It also dispensed most of the drugs and surgical apparatus for the Displaced Persons Camp Hospitals of all kinds. The Red Cross Societies had gained the esteem and admiration of Military Government, the Army of Occupation and the German Welfare Organizations but won the hearts and respect of the German population through their devotion and charity. Displaced Persons also thought highly of the Red Cross for they were never refused help when they were in trouble. The Red Cross teams had esprit de corps, discipline, understanding and charity. It was marvelous to see teams of different countries and languages working with a spirit of Christianity, charity, kindness knowing that the reward for their humanitarian work might be only ingratitude. Many of them told us that most of the Germans had been very grateful to them for their work.

147. From what we saw in Germany it would have been better to give the handling of the Displaced Persons and Refugees to the Red Cross Societies instead of to U.N.R.R.A. This was not only my personal opinion - it was shared by many Military Government personnel who felt that U.N.R.R.A. had been the greatest failure of all the Allied organizations in occupied Germany. The Allied Armies - American and British - took care of the repatriation of the 3,000,000 people of Western Europe, but U.N.R.R.A. claimed through the European Radio in the fall of 1945 that they did the job. I had in Munster, in my office, documents and files which would prove that the repatriation was done by the Allied Armies for the Western people and for a part of the Eastern people. U.N.R.R.A. came too late in the summer of 1945 to take charge of the Displaced Persons camps, the bulk of the repatriation being already done. It was known amongst the occupation troops as the political "Tower of Babel of Europe".

WORK OF BRITISH RED CROSS

148. Early in November 1945 the first four British Red Cross teams arrived in the Ruhr district to be stationed in the towns of Dortmund, Bochum, Hagen and Gelsenkirchen. Many Red Cross workers realized the seriousness of the situation only when they arrived, never having believed it could be as bad as they had been told. As it was impossible for the teams to be billeted in the centre of the towns they were quartered with Military Government for temporary accommodation, later being billeted in the outskirts of the towns. The teams had some early dif-

difficulty in getting organized because of shortage of storage space but these conditions were soon remedied. Medical and Health centres and food centres for children, mothers and babies were opened in different sections of each town, under the supervision of the teams and with personnel of the German welfare organizations. Children were brought weekly to the clinics where German doctors and nurses gave medical examinations and dispensed medicines free. Special care was given to expectant and nursing mothers, children and babies. The most serious problem was infant mortality due to the lack of milk. The German Red Cross had suggested that all babies should be breast fed until conditions improved. If a mother's milk was too poor for the baby the child was handed over to a wet-nurse or a breast-feeding mother who had lost her child. This system worked very well and saved thousands of lives among the babies. A special feeding system was adopted by the British and German Red Cross for the mothers. All kinds of diseases were treated in the clinics and serious cases were sent to the hospitals for further treatment.

149. Centres were also opened in the different towns where food was distributed to children under the care of the welfare organizations but supervised by the British teams. If the child was too sick to come for his food, a doctor's certificate entitled the mother to collect it. At the beginning, the Red Cross teams had at their disposal 200 tons of Pacific Packs for the Ruhr district in addition to their other stores and supplies. The British Red Cross had all kinds of difficulties in the setting up of the food centres but these were overcome quickly with the cooperation of Welfare Branch of Military Government.

150. The work of the Red Cross teams did not consist solely of the care of the sick and needy with medicines or food but also supply the German population with materials for sewing circles where old clothes could be repaired and new ones made. Sewing machines were supplied by the Red Cross Societies and sewing clubs organized in every district. These were very much appreciated by the Germans because they had been short of sewing materials for some time. At first there was a serious lack of German Red Cross workers for many of those with experience had been dismissed by the Military Government for their Nazi activities. This was in part overcome by the loan of apprentice workers from Caritas Verband and Innere Mission welfare organizations.

151. As most of the German Red Cross vehicles had been taken over by the fire service, their ambulance service was practically non-existent and they warmly welcomed the arrival of other Red Cross ambulances. Since the funds of the German Society had been frozen by Military Government their operating funds were almost entirely obtained from the "Tariffs" on transporting patients in their ambulances and they wished to see patients carried in B.R.C. vehicles on their behalf similarly charged. This appears here to be on standard practice except in the case of emergencies for the D.R.K. (German

Red Cross) was spending considerable sums of money on their Search Bureau personnel and their first aid posts. The former rendered innumerable services to the German population, thousands of children having been recovered and brought back to their families by this organization. They also had a group working with the British Military authorities in charge of all the German Prisoners of War.

152. The two British Red Cross teams stationed in the city of Dortmund could provide 1000 calories daily for about 5,000 children. The British Red Cross contributed to the development of one of a Malt tonic designed to supply the vitamins lacking in the local diet. This tonic which was prepared with the help of the chief chemist of the world famous Brewery at Dortmund, had a high caloric value and was both nourishing and palatable. The teams were in constant contact with the German Hospitals and the welfare organizations, and besides all their ordinary welfare work they were in charge of the youth movement in each town.

WORK OF SWISS RED CROSS

153. The Swiss Red Cross teams operated in the Cologne-Aachen district. Their ten supervisory units in the British Zone had 10,000 children to be fed 1,000 calories per day for 100 days and 5,000 babies to get one-half liter of milk per day for the same period. Each unit had 30 tons of supplies to start with including 100,000 metres of cloth of all kinds, 100,000 metres of underwear material, ten sewing circle huts for 20 women each and 20 to 30 sewing machines. They operated self-contained kitchens and feeding centres, all cooking apparatus and supplies being furnished by Military Government.

WORK OF SWEDISH RED CROSS

154. To relieve the housing situation in the Cologne-Aachen districts the Swedish Red Cross had brought over 10,000 dismantled huts from Sweden. The huts were made of light metal, were wind and rain-proof and quite comfortable. Eight thousand of them were set up in Cologne where the need was most acute. The huts which could be assembled and set up in four hours, had four large bed rooms with three double deckers in each, a large dining room, a kitchen and a bath room. A few of these huts were set up in the town of Gladbeck. More were suppose to arrive during the summer of 1946.

SOME REPORTS ON RED CROSS

155. The following extract from the minutes of a meeting of the German welfare organizations and the Red Cross Societies held in the town of Gladbeck on 8 Feb 46 may be of interest. The meeting included represent-

atives of the German welfare organizations operating in the town with one British and three Swedish Red Cross representatives. The chairman, Dr Wenning, expressed his heartfelt thanks to the representatives of the Swedish Red Cross in the name of the welfare organizations stating eloquently that at the distribution centres every one had seen the happy faces of the children. Distribution of food was handled by two Swedish vehicles and one town vehicle. Benches were still lacking in certain distribution centres, but these could be procured later. The girls helping the centres were asked to bring ladies to help them in their work because they had no experience. The centre of Kamhowe was too small for over 400 had to be fed there. As there was no other possibility for feeding the children at the Rosenhugel, the representative of the Red Cross teams agreed that for the time being the children could take their food from Kamphowe to their homes. Cleaning materials for the centres could be hardly provided by Red Cross so the German hostesses would have to look after the cleaning themselves.

156. The following account of a regular monthly meeting of the British Red Cross teams and the Public Health and Welfare Branch of Military Government at 918 Military Government at Dortmund provides further illustration. The meeting was under the chairmanship of Major Battersby, supported by Capt LaBrosse and Miss Torr, the British Red Cross Liaison Officer for the Province of Westphalia. Every team commander was there to present his monthly report of activities, requirement in supplies and stores and the situation in the local hospitals, the local food situation or the efficiency of charitable organizations. These meetings were as a result of a decision that the German welfare organizations should deal with the local Red Cross team in their district. If the local team could not deal with any matter it could be referred to Provincial Red Cross Liaison Officer who would refer the matter to our Provincial Welfare Branch. All such requests were brought up at the meeting and when we returned to our detachment we handed them over to the branches concerned for their consideration and approval.

GENERAL SITUATION IN WESTPHALIA, JANUARY 1946

157. The following paragraphs are taken from a report on the general situation in the Province of Westphalia at the beginning of 1946 prepared for Headquarters of Public Health and Welfare Branch Internal Administration and Communications Division Control Commission Germany.

158. Our observations of the general state of health and nourishment, of clothing, heating and accommodation indicated great distress and misery, not only among the transients and evacuees but also among the long-settled population. Moreover the Province of Westphalia had been assigned between 800,000 and 900,000 refugees from Poland who were soon to arrive. Even the