

Programs with Respect to Relief
and Rescue of Refugees; Food Pkgs.
for Unassimilated Persons

Food Packages for Unassimilated
Persons, Vol. 6

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filing

000521

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL PERSONS

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY

000522

Food Packages

9 JUN 1945

Dear Dr. Wise:

I have received your letter of June 5, 1945, concerning War Refugee Board food parcels in Europe.

With respect to the Board's packages which the International Red Cross had sent from Sweden to Luebeck, the Board's representative in Stockholm recently cabled that all of these parcels have been distributed by the International Red Cross. On the date of Germany's surrender, there was a small quantity of Board parcels in the hands of the International Red Cross in Switzerland. With the permission of the military authorities, the International Red Cross has continued to deliver these parcels to liberated detainees in Southern Germany and Austria. On June 6th, Mr. McClelland advised the Board that, under the present rate of shipping, all of these three-kilo parcels will be exhausted very shortly.

In addition to the three-kilo parcels, the War Refugee Board had made arrangements to acquire from the United States Army a quantity of standard prisoner of war parcels. The Board is disposing of these parcels to the UNRRA which plans to distribute them to displaced persons in liberated areas.

The above is for your confidential information.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.

~~Secretary of the Treasury~~

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
President,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

JH
FH:hd 6/8/45 *JMT*

000523

9 JUN 1945

Dear Dr. Wise:

I have received your letter of June 5, 1945, concerning War Refugee Board food parcels in Europe.

With respect to the Board's packages which the International Red Cross had sent from Sweden to Luebeck, the Board's representative in Stockholm recently cabled that all of these parcels have been distributed by the International Red Cross. On the date of Germany's surrender, there was a small quantity of Board parcels in the hands of the International Red Cross in Switzerland. With the permission of the military authorities, the International Red Cross has continued to deliver these parcels to liberated detainees in Southern Germany and Austria. On June 6th, Mr. McClelland advised the Board that, under the present rate of shipping, all of these three-kilo parcels will be exhausted very shortly.

In addition to the three-kilo parcels, the War Refugee Board had made arrangements to acquire from the United States Army a quantity of standard prisoner of war parcels. The Board is disposing of these parcels to the UNRRA which plans to distribute them to displaced persons in liberated areas.

The above is for your confidential information.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Stephen S. Wise,
President,
World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.

FH: lhh 6-9-45

000524



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Food Package

June 25, 1945

My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the directive contained in Executive Order No. 8496 of July 26, 1940, and those issued subsequently, I am pleased to submit herewith a report of the receipt, transportation, and distribution of relief supplies purchased for the War Refugee Board by United States governmental agencies, with funds made available by section 40 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1941, and the Third Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act, 1942, and the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944. This report reflects the entire food package program of the War Refugee Board for the benefit of persons held in enemy concentration camps.

Prior to 1944, it had been for the most part impossible to send relief to suffering civilians detained in enemy concentration camps. But, as a result of the cooperative efforts of the British-American blockade authorities, the War Refugee Board and other United States governmental agencies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the distribution of food parcels to persons held in concentration camps in enemy Europe was made possible in the latter half of 1944 and the first half of 1945.

All movements of supplies were completed without expenditures for customs or any form of taxation in the countries receiving such relief.

As in any comparable international relief operation, the effectiveness of the War Refugee Board feeding program was made possible only by the close cooperation of many departments and agencies of the United States Government. I wish, therefore, to express particular appreciation

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for the assistance of the officials of the State,
Treasury, Agriculture and War Departments and other
governmental agencies including the Foreign Economic
Administration and the American National Red Cross.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The President,

The White House.

*WJ - Cleared
with Pelt
FH:hd 7/2/47
W.O. Dwyer.*

000528

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT--DISTRIBUTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES PURCHASED WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

(Under the provisions of sec. 40 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1941, Executive Order of July 26, 1940, and Third Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act of December 17, 1941, and the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1942)

As early as March 1944, the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as interested private relief agencies in the United States, urged the immediate shipment of parceled food and clothing from the United States to Switzerland for distribution by the Committee to unassimilated detainees in enemy territory. Inquiries to the Board's representatives abroad, as well as to representatives of the American private relief agencies, established that no substantial quantities of foodstuffs or clothing were available in the neutral countries of Europe for projects of this nature.

Prior to the establishment of the War Refugee Board, the United States Government had rejected similar proposals to send relief shipments from the United States primarily because adequate assurances governing the distribution of these supplies were lacking and such assurances as were obtained did not seem adequate to guarantee that the relief so provided would go to the intended beneficiaries and not to the enemy. In March 1944, the International Committee of the Red Cross was able to secure certain distribution guarantees from individual camp commanders that relief supplies would reach the intended beneficiaries, and in transmitting the recommendation of the International Committee of the Red Cross the American Minister at Bern recommended favorable action.

As a result of these recommendations and following talks between the Executive Director of the Board, representatives of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, representatives of the State Department and of the Foreign Economic Administration, an agreement was reached in June 1944, permitting the shipment of 100,000 three-kilo food parcels per month for a period of three months, for distribution by the International Committee of the Red Cross to persons held in the Nazi concentration camps where satisfactory distribution could be guaranteed. Representatives of the British Government had originally proposed that such a program should be limited to detained persons in what was formerly occupied France, but at the insistence of the War Refugee Board it was finally agreed that the proposal would not be so limited and would apply to any concentration camp in German-occupied territory

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selected by the International Committee of the Red Cross where satisfactory distribution guarantees could be met.

The program was initially regarded as experimental, and if successful, it was contemplated that this system of relief would be expanded. The Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee in London was asked jointly by the State Department, the Foreign Economic Administration, and the War Refugee Board to request the International Committee of the Red Cross to approach German authorities to ascertain whether they would, in principle, permit the Committee to distribute food parcels in all camps in German-controlled territories in which persons not assimilated to the status of prisoner of war under the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention were held. The Committee was also to ascertain whether German authorities would permit the immediate distribution of food parcels in fifteen selected camps. Formal blockade authorization was received on August 5, 1944, enabling the Board to get this program under way.

On September 12, 1944, the President, by a directive to the Secretary of the Treasury, the War Food Administrator, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross, and the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, ordered that unobligated balances on allocation to the Treasury Procurement Division and the War Food Administration, from the congressional appropriation for Foreign War Relief, be obligated in the amount of \$1,068,750 for purposes of defraying the costs incident to the procurement and packaging of food products for 285,000 parcels for packaging and shipment by the American National Red Cross to the International Committee of the Red Cross for ultimate distribution to civilian internees in concentration camps in German-controlled territory. (In the interest of dispatching parcels immediately to these beneficiaries, 15,000 commercially packed parcels obtained with other funds available to the War Refugee Board were forwarded to Gothenburg, Sweden, in August 1944 for distribution by International Red Cross delegates.) As of December 1, 1944, a total of 224,328 parcels were forwarded to the Swedish port of Gothenburg for transshipment to the German port of Lubeck, from which point the International Committee of the Red Cross arranged for distribution. On December 19, 1944, 60,672 parcels were forwarded to the French port of Toulon, from which point they were transshipped overland to Geneva for ultimate distribution to camps in Southern Germany under the supervision of the Committee.

Initial reports on distribution received from the International Committee of the Red Cross indicated that nationals of all United Nations shared in the distribution of these parcels and that distribution guarantees had been maintained. In view of this, the Board in conjunction with the State Department and the Foreign Economic Administration again approached the Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee in London in November

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1944 for authorization for the shipment of an additional 300,000 three- kilo parcels. On January 31, 1945, by Presidential directive to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross, and the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, the President ordered that unobligated balances on allocation to the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, from the congressional appropriation for Foreign War Relief, be obligated in the amount of \$1,125,000 with instructions that these parcels be procured commercially for transshipment by the American Red Cross to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The American National Red Cross, which had arranged for the packaging as well as the shipment of the previously approved parcels, unfortunately was not able to extend its packaging facilities to the Board for this second shipment, but agreed to extend its shipping facilities for the movement of these supplies. However, upon exploration of the commercial field interested in producing packages of this nature, it became apparent to the Board that too much time would be required to procure the supplies for these parcels and to package them for shipment. Accordingly, in April 1945, the War Refugee Board arranged to purchase from the War Department a total of 200,000 of its standard prisoner-of-war parcels stocked in Geneva, Switzerland. These parcels were awaiting repackaging for the removal of Red Cross and Army symbols before shipment into German-controlled territory at the time of the unconditional surrender by Germany.

The War Refugee Board has arranged with officials of UNRRA and FEA for the sale of this stockpile of 200,000 food parcels to UNRRA for distribution by that agency to displaced persons in liberated countries. The proceeds from this sale will revert to the Treasurer of the United States.

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COPY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of the Treasury
Chairman of the American National Red Cross
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board

Since the procurement and shipment of the 285,000 food packages for distribution to victims of enemy persecution in Europe, referred to in my memorandum of September 12, 1944, have been successfully completed, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board has recommended that an additional 300,000 three-kilo food parcels be procured by this Government for similar distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in that part of Europe now held or occupied by the enemy.

In order that this program may be put into effect as rapidly as possible, it is directed that the following steps be taken at once:

(1) The unobligated balances of funds allocated to the Treasury Department from the appropriations for Foreign War Relief, continued available until June 30, 1945, by the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944, shall be available to the Secretary of the Treasury up to a value of \$1,125,000 to procure commercially these parcels and for reimbursement to the American National Red Cross for the cost of warehousing within the United States and the ultimate transportation of these parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross. As agreed between Treasury Procurement Division and the War Refugee Board, the Director of Procurement shall arrange for the purchase of these parcels for delivery to the American National Red Cross.

(2) As agreed between the American National Red Cross and the War Refugee Board, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross shall arrange for the warehousing within the United States and shipping of the 300,000 three-kilo food parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross for ultimate distribution among such unassimilated persons.

(3) The Executive Director of the War Refugee Board shall exercise over-all responsibility for this project.

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 12, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: War Food Administrator
Secretary of the Treasury
Chairman of the American National Red Cross
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board

On the recommendation of the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board that 285,000 food parcels be procured by this Government for distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in that part of Europe now held or occupied by the enemy, the following steps should be taken as expeditiously as possible:

(1) The unobligated balances of funds allocated to the Department of Agriculture from the appropriations for Foreign War Relief, continued available until June 30, 1945 by the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944, shall be available to the War Food Administration to procure necessary agricultural supplies up to a value of \$783,750.

(2) The unobligated balances of the funds allocated to the Treasury Department from the same sources as above, but not in an amount in excess of \$285,000, shall be available to the Secretary of the Treasury to procure the materials, other than agricultural supplies, necessary for the packaging and transportation of the parcels and for reimbursement to the American National Red Cross for the cost of the packaging and transportation of the parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

(3) As agreed between the American National Red Cross and the War Refugee Board, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross shall arrange for the packaging of the 285,000 food parcels and their shipment to the International Committee of the Red Cross for ultimate distribution among such unassimilated persons.

(4) The Executive Director of the War Refugee Board shall exercise over-all responsibility for this project.

(Signed) Franklin Roosevelt

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My dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the directive contained in Executive Order No. 8495 of July 26, 1940, and those issued subsequently, I am pleased to submit herewith a report of the receipt, transportation, and distribution of relief supplies purchased for the War Refugee Board by United States governmental agencies with funds made available by section 40 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, fiscal year 1941, and the Third Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act, 1942, and the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944. This report reflects the entire food package program of the War Refugee Board for the benefit of persons held in enemy concentration camps.

Prior to 1944, it had been for the most part impossible to send relief to suffering civilians detained in enemy concentration camps. But, as a result of the cooperative efforts of the British-American blockade authorities, the War Refugee Board and other United States governmental agencies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the distribution of food parcels to persons held in concentration camps in enemy Europe was made possible in the latter half of 1944 and the first half of 1945.

All movements of supplies were completed without expenditures for customs or any form of taxation in the countries receiving such relief.

As in any comparable international relief operation, the effectiveness of the War Refugee Board feeding program was made possible only by the close cooperation of many departments and agencies of the United States Government. I wish, therefore, to express particular appreciation

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- 2 -

for the assistance of the officials of the ~~Department~~ ^{Departments} of State, Treasury,
Agriculture and War, and other governmental agencies including the Foreign
Economic Administration and the American National Red Cross.

Faithfully yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The President

The White House.

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~~SECRET~~

1. copies

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT--DISTRIBUTION BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES PURCHASED WITH GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

(Under the provisions of sec. 40 of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1941, Executive Order of July 26, 1940, and Third Supplemental National Defense Appropriation Act of December 17, 1941, and the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1942)

As early as March 1944, the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as ^{selected relief} the private agencies in the United States, urged the immediate shipment of parceled food and clothing from the United States to Switzerland for distribution by the Committee to unassimilated detainees in enemy territory. Inquiries to the Board's representatives abroad, as well as to representatives of the American private relief agencies, established that no substantial quantities of foodstuffs or clothing were available in the neutral countries of Europe for projects of this nature.

Prior to the establishment of the War Refugee Board, the United States Government had rejected similar proposals to send relief shipments from the United States primarily because adequate assurances governing the distribution of these supplies were lacking and such assurances as were obtained did not seem adequate to guarantee that ^{the} relief so provided would go to ^{the intended} beneficiaries and not to the ^{enemy} detaining power. In March 1944, the International Committee of the Red Cross was able to secure certain distribution guarantees from individual camp commanders that relief supplies would reach the intended beneficiaries, and in transmitting the recommendation of the International Committee of the Red Cross the American Minister at Bern recommended favorable action.

As a result of these recommendations and following talks between the Executive Director of the Board, representatives of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, ~~and~~ representatives of the State Department and the Foreign Economic Administration, an agreement was reached in June 1944, permitting the shipment of 100,000 three-kilo food parcels per month for a

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period of three months, ^{for} ~~with~~ distribution by the International Committee of the Red Cross to persons held in ^{the} ~~such~~ Nazi concentration camps where satisfactory distribution, ^{could be} guaranteed ~~obtained~~. Representatives of the British Government had originally proposed that such a program should be limited to detained persons in what was formerly occupied France, but at the insistence of the War Refugee Board it was finally agreed that the proposal would not be so limited and would apply to any concentration camp in German-occupied territory selected by the International Committee of the Red Cross where satisfactory distribution guarantees could be met.

^R The program was initially regarded as experimental, and if successful, it was contemplated that this system of relief would be expanded. The Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee in London was asked jointly by the State Department, the Foreign Economic Administration, and the War Refugee Board to request the International Committee of the Red Cross to approach German authorities to ascertain whether they would, in principle, permit the Committee to distribute food parcels in all camps in German-controlled territories in which persons not assimilated to the status of prisoner of war under the Geneva Prisoner of War Convention were held. The Committee was also to ascertain whether German authorities would permit the immediate distribution of food parcels in fifteen selected camps. Formal blockade authorization was received on August 5, 1944, enabling the Board to get this program under way.

On September 12, 1944, the President, by a directive to the Secretary of the Treasury, the War Food Administrator, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross, and the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, ordered that the sum of \$1,068,750 from the congressional appropriation for Foreign War Relief be allocated to the Treasury Procurement Division and the War Food Administration for purposes of defraying the costs inci-

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dent to the procurement and packaging of food products for 285,000 parcels for packaging and shipment by the American National Red Cross to the International Committee of the Red Cross for ultimate distribution to civilian internees in ~~the~~ concentration camps in German-controlled territory. (In the interest of dispatching parcels immediately to these beneficiaries, 15,000 commercially packed parcels obtained with other funds available to the War Refugee Board were forwarded to Gothenburg, Sweden, in August 1944 for distribution by International Red Cross delegates.) As of December 1, 1944, a total of 224,328 parcels were forwarded to the Swedish port of Gothenburg for transshipment to the German port of Luebeck, from which point the International Committee of the Red Cross arranged for distribution. On December 19, 1944, 60,672 parcels were forwarded to the French port of Toulon, from which point they were transshipped overland to Geneva for ultimate distribution to camps in Southern Germany under the supervision of the Committee.

Initial reports on distribution received from the International Committee of the Red Cross indicated that nationals of all United Nations shared in the distribution of these parcels and that distribution guarantees had been maintained. In view of this, the Board in ^{consultation} concert with the State Department and the Foreign Economic Administration again approached the Relief Subcommittee of the Joint Blockade Committee in London in November 1944 to ~~secure~~ ^{obtain} authorization for the shipment of an additional 300,000 three-kilo parcels. On January 31, 1945, by Presidential directive to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross, and the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, the President allocated the sum of \$1,125,000 to the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department with instructions that these parcels be procured commercially for transshipment by the American Red Cross to the International Committee

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of the Red Cross. The American National Red Cross, which had arranged for the packaging as well as the shipment of the previously approved parcels, unfortunately was not able to extend its packaging facilities to the Board for this second shipment, but agreed to extend its shipping facilities for the movement of these supplies. However, upon exploration of the commercial field interested in producing packages of this nature, it became apparent to the Board that too much time would be required to procure the supplies for these parcels and to package them for shipment. Accordingly, in April 1945, the War Refugee Board arranged to purchase from the War Department a total of 206,000 of its standard prisoner-of-war parcels stocked in Geneva, Switzerland. These parcels were awaiting repackaging for the removal of Red Cross and Army symbols before shipment into German-controlled territory at the time of the unconditional surrender by Germany.

The War Refugee Board has arranged with officials of UNRRA and FEA for the sale of this stockpile of 206,000 food parcels to UNRRA for distribution by that agency to displaced persons in liberated countries. The proceeds from this sale will revert to the Treasurer of the United States.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 31, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of the Treasury
Chairman of the American National Red Cross
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board

Since the procurement and shipment of the 285,000 food packages for distribution to victims of enemy persecution in Europe, referred to in my memorandum of September 12, 1944, have been successfully completed, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board has recommended that an additional 300,000 three-kilo food parcels be procured by this Government for similar distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in that part of Europe now held or occupied by the enemy.

In order that this program may be put into effect as rapidly as possible, it is directed that the following steps be taken at once:

(1) The unobligated balances of funds allocated to the Treasury Department from the appropriations for Foreign War Relief, continued available until June 30, 1945, by the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944, shall be available to the Secretary of the Treasury up to a value of \$1,125,000 to procure commercially these parcels and for reimbursement to the American National Red Cross for the cost of warehousing within the United States and the ultimate transportation of these parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross. As agreed between Treasury Procurement Division and the War Refugee Board, the Director of Procurement shall arrange for the purchase of these parcels for delivery to the American National Red Cross.

(2) As agreed between the American National Red Cross and the War Refugee Board, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross shall arrange for the warehousing within the United States and shipping of the 300,000 three-kilo food parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross for ultimate distribution among such unassimilated persons.

(3) The Executive Director of the War Refugee Board shall exercise over-all responsibility for this project.

(Signed) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 12, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: War Food Administrator
Secretary of the Treasury
Chairman of the American National Red Cross
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board

On the recommendation of the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board that 285,000 food parcels be procured by this Government for distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in that part of Europe now held or occupied by the enemy, the following steps should be taken as expeditiously as possible:

(1) The unobligated balances of funds allocated to the Department of Agriculture from the appropriations for Foreign War Relief, continued available until June 30, 1945 by the Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944, shall be available to the War Food Administration to procure necessary agricultural supplies up to a value of \$763,750.

(2) The unobligated balances of the funds allocated to the Treasury Department from the same sources as above, but not in an amount in excess of \$285,000, shall be available to the Secretary of the Treasury to procure the materials, other than agricultural supplies, necessary for the packaging and transportation of the parcels and for reimbursement to the American National Red Cross for the cost of the packaging and transportation of the parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

(3) As agreed between the American National Red Cross and the War Refugee Board, the Chairman of the American National Red Cross shall arrange for the packaging of the 285,000 food parcels and their shipment to the International Committee of the Red Cross for ultimate distribution among such unassimilated persons.

(4) The Executive Director of the War Refugee Board shall exercise over-all responsibility for this project.

(Signed) Franklin Roosevelt

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AIR MAIL

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, June 20, 1945

Dear Gen. O'Dwyer:

With reference to the general matter of the distribution of War Refugee Board parcels from Switzerland in Germany both during and after hostilities and in particular to the Legation's wire No. 2823 of May 19, 1945, I am pleased to forward for the Board's information and records a copy of the most recent accounting of the distribution of our parcels which was received from the Division of Special Assistance of the International Red Cross on June 16th.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland

Roswell D. McClelland
Spec. Assistant to the Minister

Enclosure:

As stated above

Brig. General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
c/o Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

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C O P Y

COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre

Genève, le 15 Juin 1945

Palais du Conseil-Général

Mr. R. D. McClelland
Légation des Etats-Unis
d'Amérique
29, Alpenstrasse
B E R N E

Concerne: Colis du War Refugee Board arrivés en Suisse.

Monsieur,

Nous avons l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 1er juin 1945 et nous empressons de vous transmettre, en annexe, un état sur l'emploi des colis du War Refugee Board arrivés en Suisse durant les mois de mars et d'avril 1945.

Comme vous pourrez le constater par cette annexe, un total de 53,874 colis a été distribué à ce jour en grande partie à des personnes israelites, mais également à d'autres personnes nécessiteuses pour lesquelles nous n'avions pas de colis.

Etant donné le nombre considérable de personnes des pays baltes (Estoniens, Lithuaniens, Lettons) ainsi que d'Ukrainiens, d'Israelites Hongrois, Bulgares, Roumains et autres déportés qui ont besoin d'urgents secours et pour lesquels les gouvernements ou Croix-Rouges respectives ne disposent ni de fonds ni de marchandises, nous regrettons tout particulièrement de ce qu'il est impossible au War Refugee Board de mettre un nouveau contingent de colis à notre disposition.

Weuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre considération très distinguée.

Pour le Comite International
de la Croix-Rouge

Division d'Assistance
Spéciale

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COPY

DIVISION D'ASSISTANCE SPECIALE

15 juin 1945

MGS/RR

TABLEAU D'UTILISATION DES COLIS DU WAR REFUGEE BOARD
A NOTRE DISPOSITION EN SUISSE

Nombre total de colis arrivés en Suisse 60.661
Colis détériorés 90
Total à distribuer 60.571

| Dates | Destination | | |
|---------|--|-------|------------------------------|
| 31.3.45 | I.- Par rail | | |
| | THERESIENSTADT | 1.662 | |
| | WIEN | 4.902 | 6.564 |
| | 2.- Distribués aux rapatriés en gare GENEVE (Detainees from Mauthausen) | | 804 |
| | 3.- Par camions | | |
| 16.4.45 | MAUTHAUSEN | | |
| 26.4.45 | UFFING | 900 | |
| 25.4.45 | LANDSBERG a/LECH | 3.660 | |
| 27.4.45 | THERESIENSTADT | 8.550 | |
| 20.5.45 | THERESIENSTADT | 4.230 | |
| 23.5.45 | UFFING | 4.800 | |
| 30.5.45 | LEIPZIG | 42 | |
| 30.5.45 | THERESIENSTADT | 1.920 | |
| 28.5.45 | THERESIENSTADT | 1.920 | |
| 29.5.45 | UFFING | 2.550 | |
| 4.6.45 | LINZ | 2.550 | |
| 6.6.45 | SALZBURG | 2.700 | |
| 21.5.45 | LINZ | 5.100 | |
| 7.6.45 | LANDSBERG | 36 | |
| 7.6.45 | LUSTENAU | 252 | |
| 7.6.45 | THERESIENSTADT | 6 | |
| 13.6.45 | AUGSBURG | 240 | |
| 4.5.45 | LUSTENAU u. HOHENEMS | 1.080 | |
| 7.5.45 | TISIS | 30 | |
| 4.5.45 | SCHULS | 102 | For deportees |
| 19.5.45 | SCHULS | 174 | in area |
| 25.5.45 | BREGENZ (Délég.) ICRC | 24 |) ditto |
| 4.6.45 | BREGENZ (Délég.) ICRC | 36 | |
| 7.6.45 | LUSTENAU | 54 | |
| | 4.- Pour l'Italie du nord | | 40.956 |
| | 5.- Pour St. Margrethen | | 4.998 (Bolzano area) |
| | 6.- Restent actuellement en stock | | 5.550 (Deportees in transit) |
| | TOTAL | | <u>1.699</u> |
| | | | <u>60.571</u> <u>60.571</u> |

000545

Representative of the
War Refugee Board
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN LEGATION
BERN, SWITZERLAND

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
CONFIDENTIAL

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

By air mail
Par avion

REG. No. 957

52503

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

Food Parcels
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Ader-237
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

W or Ref 28
Stockholm *O'Dwyer*

Dated June 8, 1948

Rec'd 6:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

2071, June 8, 4 p.m.

The following telegram has been sent to Box, 38
June 8, 4 p.m.

FOR MCGLELLAND FROM OLSEN

Supplementing our 33, May 23 following info (*)
ned by AMCROSS rep "hisler. 224,000 WRB food parcels
shipped from Goteborg distributed as follows.

Mar 5, two wagons to Nuengamme 10800 parcels.

Mar 15, by SS MAGDELENA 5 to Lubeck for POTS.
compensate for those given NORWEG civilians 13200.

Mar. 16 wagon to Nuengamme 5400.

Mar. 17, same place same amount.

Mar 17, two wagons to Ravensbruck 9600.

Mar 17 by SS MAGDELENA 7 to Lubeck for civ
internes 140376.

May 22 to Kooperativo for Bundet for WJC
39288.

Total 224,121 parcels.

Of parcels

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

CONTROL COPY
RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
1948 JUN 9 AM 6:13
D/C/L
WILSON

000548

-2-2071, June 8, 4 p.m. from Stockholm

Of parcels sent IRC rep Lubeck 53610 on hand at latest reporting date. He was, however, distributing these rapidly as possible to camp areas in reach and also using them help feed 10,000 former camp inmates now in Lubeck area. Hence assumable supply WRB parcels in Lubeck virtually exhausted. Local WJC group distribu (*) s kosher food parcels as follows.

Bergen-Belsen 7500.

Ravensbruck same amount.

Various camps Germany 10835.

Destined Lubeck but instead sent Denmark 10,000.

To Dane Jews in Sweden 2000.

Total 37,835.

As indicated above parcels in ton distributed by Dane mosaic community to inmates Ravensbruck as they passed thru Denmark (*) WRB as 2071. Reports reached us many of these not given food for several days and in critical condition.

JOHNSON

(*) apparent omission

JM

000549



000550

Food Parcels

Figures Submitted by War Food Administration Covering the Procurement of Commodities for War Refugee Board Parcels

| <u>Commodity</u> | <u>Volume</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Cheese | 142,500 | \$ 54,204.15 |
| Canned luncheon meat | 138,744 | 51,071.67 |
| Chocolate | 71,244 | 12,423.53 |
| Dried whole milk | 285,072 | 131,684.24 |
| Oleomargarine | 285,000 | 50,929.50 |
| Army biscuits | 17,530 | 2,832.15 |
| " " | 37,154 | 5,988.85 |
| Camel cigarettes | 5,700,000 | 14,755.36 |
| Ascorbic acid tablets | 1,995,000 | 7,832.45 |
| Soap | 35,625 | 6,447.41 |
| Salmon | 142,512 | <u>73,384.17</u> |

Total \$ 411,553.48

Note: These figures are not complete as they do not cover all commodities but represent only the expenditure figures as of June 1, 1945.

000551



000552

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

WMB-409
Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. (W)

Stockholm
Dated May 23, 1945

Rec'd 10:25 p.m.

Marked
O. Johnson

Secretary of State
Washington

1882, May 23, 7 p.m.

FOR MCCLELLAND FROM OLSEN

Will make continued effort to supply requested information but delays will necessarily be encountered since at present we have no communication with Lubock.

(Re your 21, May 19) According to our most recent information IRC delegate in Lubock was distributing WRB packages to civilian internees in immediate area and whenever possible was despatching by trucks food packages to various concentration camps within reach.

It is known that quite recently the IRC delegate forwarded a fairly substantial shipment of parcels to Ravensbrueck. AMCROSS representative Whisler and IRC delegate in Goteborg are of opinion that most of WRB packages in Lubock have now been distributed. It will be impossible to supply more precise details until communications are reestablished.

Rptd to Dept and WRB.

JOHNSON

JMS

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP-21 1972

CONTROL COPY

For security reasons the text of this message should be classified "Secret".

000553



000554

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

Food Packages

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

unref'd
J. Sawyer

DB-1205
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RESTRICTED~~)

Born

Dated May 19, 1945

Rec'd 4:55 p.m.

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
1945 MAY 20 AM
DC/L
LIAISON

Secretary of State

Washington

2823, May 19, 7 p.m.

O'DWYER WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

D.L.P.'S 1763 WRB 521, May 10.

CONTROL COPY

With reference to second paragraph your 521 there
are approximately 28,792 undistributed WRB parcels, exclusive
of 206,000 still in Switzerland. They are located in
ICRC warehouses at Geneva.

Out of original 60,000 WRB parcels shipped to
Switzerland, some 31,208 were shipped into
German occupied territory for relief of
civil detainees or otherwise used for this
same category of beneficiaries, through ICRC'S Div. of
Social Assistance, as follows: 16 March 1170 to Thoresoin-
stadt 16 March 4902 to Vienna area 19 March 492 to
Thoresoinstadt 16 April 900 to Mauthausen 17 Apr. 4230
to Thoresoinstadt 19 Apr. 3660 to concentration camps in
Wurttemberg and Bavaria principally Dachau 23 Apr. 8550 to
Landsberg-am-Lech 1st May 1500 to temporary ICRC deportee
camp at Hoochst

000555

-2- 2823, May 19, 7 p.m. from Bern

camp at Hochst 4th May 804 for convoys of rescued
detainees incoming from Mauthausen and 11 May 5000 to
Bolzano area (Logt's 2552, May 1).

Delivery of 2,000 gallons gasoline and corresponding
lubricants allotted weekly by SHAEF to ICRC for WRB
programs has been stopped as of May 16.

HARRISON

DU

000556



000557

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Pauley Stands Pat on Hard Peace

By Drew Pearson

At the Chicago Democratic Convention last July, there was a little tunnel under the speaker's stand to the floor of the convention hall. Off this passageway were little doors. One was marked: "Edward Pauley."

To the little office behind this door, big, ingratiating Democratic treasurer Ed Pauley hauled from the floor delegate after delegate who was wavering between Truman and Wallace. There he convinced California's Attorney General Bob Kennedy, who had arrived as a Wallace supporter but who, after listening to Pauley, voted for Truman and took half of California's delegation with him.

In those last frantic hours when it was nip and tuck between Wallace and Truman, Pauley and his little office did a thriving business. Perhaps he tipped the scales for the man who now sits in the White House.

Last week, after the political debt was paid which made Pauley United States member of the Reparations Commission, Big Ed had a talk with old friends, including his chief in the White House. Judging by what Big Ed told them, there is no doubt where he stands regarding a hard peace for Germany.

State Department appeasers, he told them, will arrange his transportation and his hotel accommodations, but that's all. Otherwise, Pauley is determined that the policy of Franklin Roosevelt before he died shall be carried out. That policy was that every potential war factory in Germany be transferred or wiped out. President Truman has reemphasized that policy.

Pauley, who is as good a businessman as he is a politician, may be a lot better than some diplomats when it comes to carrying it out.



PAULEY

what would be happening in Washington and elsewhere in the world.

As the gubernatorial trio left, McGrath of Rhode Island dropped behind for a moment and Truman said he might be calling him to Washington again within a couple of weeks. McGrath, who led Roosevelt and Truman by more than 10,000 votes in Rhode Island last year, is serving his third term as Governor and was U. S. Attorney in Rhode Island for seven years before that.

A close friend of Bob Hannegan, McGrath seconded Truman's Vice Presidential nomination last year at Chicago.

NOTE—Later in the day a reporter called McGrath and asked him if he had discussed horse-racing with the President. The Governor said he had not, hung up the telephone and turned to a friend. "Lord, what a story the reporters could have made out of that—the Governors of Maryland and Rhode Island, two of the hottest horse-racing States, closeted with the President as VE-Day gets close. You know, I didn't think of horse-racing, and I'll bet O'Connor didn't either."

O'Dwyer Saves Refugees

War Refugee Board Director General William O'Dwyer won't admit it, but he plans to resign soon and devote his full time to getting elected Mayor of New York.

O'Dwyer has done a bang-up job as head of the War Refugee Board, has even achieved what some people consider "the impossible" in getting the stuffy State and War Departments to rush aid to starving refugees.

Early last February, O'Dwyer found the Government had more than 1000 tons of food in Switzerland and another 2100 tons of food in Sweden lying idle, while refugees died. O'Dwyer figured as a result of his studies of Nazi psychology that in the last days of

Hitlerism, the Germans would not go in for extermination by shooting; would accomplish the same end by mass starvation.

To help head this off, O'Dwyer went to Secretary Morgenthau, Acting Secretary of State Grew and Secretary of War Stimson, who advised him to go to Switzerland, talk to the International Red Cross there.

O'Dwyer did not tell them so, but he turned thumbs down on this idea, realizing that once he left Washington he would be at the mercy of the State Department. Instead he went to see Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace. Wallace took O'Dwyer, to see his brother-in-law, the Swiss Minister in Washington, who in turn arranged by cable with Switzerland to furnish the trucks to carry food relief into Germany.

Next O'Dwyer put the heat on General Eisenhower's headquarters to give him an allotment of 2000 gallons of gas a week, together with the necessary tires. All this he turned over to the International Red Cross, which began a shuttle trucking service to take care of refugees. O'Dwyer gave orders that all refugees, regardless of race or creed, were to be fed.

And though many starved in Nazi prison camps, the death toll would have been higher without forthright Bill O'Dwyer.

Capital Chaff

About the first to benefit from VE-Day will be farm machinery. WPB's Chairman Krug has ordered that farm machinery manufacturers be given first crack at any steel that can be spared by the military. . . . Although mail to American prisoners of war is carried free, Americans writing to them long were forbidden use of the common 3-cent stamp bearing the large "V." Letters were returned by the Post Office with warnings against sending any kind of propaganda. . . . Meanwhile, parents of U. S. prisoners received from their sons letters with German stamps on which were pictures of Hitler.

000558

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Truman Woos Governors

President Harry Truman is determined to cement his relationship with State leaders as well as Congress. That was the reason behind the recent visit to the White House of Governors Howard McGrath of Rhode Island, Herbert R. O'Connor of Maryland and Robert Kerr of Oklahoma. McGrath and O'Connor had actually been asked by Truman to come to Washington, while Kerr happened to be in town and was invited to join them.

Truman opened the conversation by telling the Governors that since they live among their constituents from day to day, they are perhaps able to keep a closer check on what the people are thinking than members of Congress. He asked their help in seeing to it that our foreign policy is understandable to the American public, and in turn is understood by the public.

Foreign policy was the only subject discussed, aside from the arrangements for the annual Governors' Conference, to be held in July at Mackinac Island, Mich.

Truman was invited by the three Governors to attend the Mackinac Island sessions, or at least to come out and speak to the Governors. The idea appealed to him, but he said he could not reply definitely until much later, when he knew

McGrath, who had been elected Governor and was U. S. Attorney in Rhode Island for seven years before that.

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Although mail to American prisoners of war is carried free, were forbidden use of the common 3-cent stamp bearing the large "V." Letters were returned by the Post Office with warnings against sending any kind of propaganda. Meanwhile, parents of U. S. prisoners received from their sons letters with German stamps on which were pictures of Hitler.



000560

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF

CENTRAL SERVICES May 10, 1945

RIW
Distribution of [redacted]
reading only by [redacted] 4 1945
arrange [redacted] PM 1 56

*Mar 20/31
O [redacted]*

DC/L

DC URGENT
ALLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

BERN
1763

The following for McClelland from War Refugee Board is

WRB 521.

Reference your no. 2550 of May 1, 1945.

The Executive Order establishing the War Refugee Board
strictly limits Board's activities to rescue and relief of
refugees of enemy oppression in enemy-occupied territory.
Accordingly, relief and assistance of refugees liberated from
the Germans are not (repeat not) within Board's jurisdiction.
In view of foregoing, all shipments of WRB parcels should
cease. You are requested to take stock of all WRB parcels still
in Switzerland and report figures and location to Board. Instruc-
tions concerning disposition of these parcels and other WRB
property in Switzerland will follow.

Requests received by you concerning relief and assistance
of refugees liberated from the Germans should be referred to
UNRRA, the appropriate military authorities, the Intergovern-
mental Committee on Refugees, private refugee organizations or
other national or international groups which are authorized to
deal with matters of this nature.

or see in [redacted] the
text of this message must
be closely [redacted]

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972 You

000561

RECEIVED
MAY 11 1968
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

-2- #1768, May 10, 4 p.m. to DEBN

You should begin now to wind up all Board activities in Switzerland and prepare final reports. Board would appreciate knowing how long this will take.

GREV
(Acting)
(GLW)

VRB:MMV:kg
5/10/45

WE

SMP

000562

US URGENT

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, SWITZERLAND FOR McCLELLAND FROM
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 2550 of May 1, 1945.

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This is WRB cable No. 521 - Bern

WHD:ivo
5/9/45

JAH
ALS.

000563



000564

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
Tempo V Bldg.

PH. _____

SY. *VM*

Times (ID)
New York, N. Y.
100

MAY 2 1945

For years, these survivors have lived through torments and agonies that our minds cannot comprehend. Some of them were born in cages and do not yet know that there are in this world people of great hearts and generosity, who are ready to bring to them all for their wounds, food and clothing for

EISENHOWER AIDS NAZI CAMP VICTIMS

O'Dwyer Tells Los Angeles
Group How General Speeded
2,130 Tons of Food

LOS ANGELES, May 1—Through the cooperation of General Eisenhower, 2,130 tons of food is on its way to the liberated inmates of German concentration camps, Brig. Gen. William O'Dwyer, chairman of the War Refugee Board, disclosed tonight in an address opening the 1945 campaign here of the United Jewish Welfare Fund.

General Eisenhower provided trucks and fuel and 1,130 tons of food which is being transported from Sweden and Switzerland through the facilities of the International Red Cross to concentration camps in the south of Germany, General O'Dwyer said.

General O'Dwyer, who is dividing his time between the War Refugee Board and his duties as District Attorney of Kings County, N. Y., estimated that only 1,000,000 of 8,000,000 Jews in Europe in 1939 were still alive.

Thanks to the Allied armies, he said, the task of rescuing those still alive "is coming to an end," and added, "the emphasis tonight must be directed to the task of keeping alive and rehabilitating the saved people."

Noting that the Nazis' persecution of the Jews, starting twelve years ago, actually marked the first phase of a general attack against the freedom-loving people of the world, General O'Dwyer continued:

their bodies, shelter from the cold, solace for their souls and hope for the future.

"These helpless ones who, up to now, have attracted the sympathy of the humane world, must not be forgotten in the joy of our imminent complete victory over the common enemy in Europe."

General O'Dwyer paid tribute to the underground and resistance groups, which, with the financial support of American Jewish welfare groups, spirited many persons out of occupied Europe.

He said that many of "the heroic leaders of Jewry within enemy

lines" had visas in their pockets and could have escaped but refused "to abandon their unfortunate brothers."

"Some of the martyrs who died at the pits were Hirsch, Meyerheim and Seligson of Germany; Raol Lambert of France, Friedman of Czechoslovakia, Neustadt and Gitterman of Poland and innumerable others. I bow in reverent memory to these heroes who went to their deaths in defense of humanity."

000565