



MARINE BULL PEN



A PAPER ISSUED IN THE INTERESTS OF
SEA-GOING COWBOYS (CPS RESERVE)

No. 2

22 S. State St., Elgin, Ill.

April 12, 1946

FOOD AND EUROPE The skimpy diets of Europeans, consisting mainly of dark bread and potatoes, are being cut in some countries to even skimpier proportions. This move is due in large degree to scarcity of wheat and difficulties of transportation. According to Associated Press reports, the situation in many countries is desperate.

Germany: One British administrator has said, "No matter how we distribute the food, someone will starve. It's hard to condemn a man to death by starvation." One-fourth of all displaced children have TB, while more than half suffer from rickets and measles. About half those who contract measles die. Basic food rations in the French and British zones of occupation have been cut one-third. Russian and American administrators say they can continue the present average diet of 1550 calories for only a few more weeks.

(Compare this to the average daily diet in the U.S. which includes 3300 calories. 2000 calories is considered the basic minimum to bare existence. 36 CO's in the semi-starvation experiment at the University of Minnesota last year existed on a 1700-calorie diet but lost about 40% of their weight.)

Austria: Daily ration has been cut to 1200 calories, but the full amount is rarely available. Grain supplies are nearing exhaustion.

Hungary: Deaths from starvation are reported. People live almost entirely on bread, with a daily ration of 5 ounces. The country needs wheat badly.

Bulgaria: Drought cut 1945 food production by 40%. Daily food supply is little over half a pound, of which 6 ounces is bread. Seeds almost unavailable. Horse power failing for lacking of feed.

Yugoslavia: Disease and starvation will increase greatly unless grain imports improve sharply.

Romania: Famine is apparent everywhere and deaths reported daily. People eating acorns or corn mixed with grass.

Poland: Only tremendously increased imports prevented mass starvation during the winter just passed. Food scarce in country regions; but distribution difficult.

Greece: Will feel wheat shortage soon. In March only 55,000 tons of wheat were received, while 79,000 tons were needed.

Italy: Wheat stocks lowest in history. Preserved and dried foods almost gone; milk, meat practically non-existent. Spring vegetables ripe this month will help.

Western Europe: in better shape than the rest of the continent but still on sharply restricted rations.

Scandinavia: Food production good except for parts of Norway. Denmark could export more food if transportation were available. Sweden now supports 100,000 German children.

Herbert Hoover, investigating food conditions abroad, reported in regard to North Africa, France, and Italy: "Conditions difficult but not intolerable, if present rations can be maintained." But last week in Warsaw, he found Poland's food situation the worst he had seen - "heart-breakingly bad". He found "over 2,600,000 children terribly subnormal from undernourishment . . . two cities, Cracow and Lodz, have already been without bread for three weeks at a time."

UNRRA AND EUROPE UNRRA does not take care of the needs of all parts of Europe. It supplies food only to Albania, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy, Poland Yugoslavia, the Ukrainian and White Russian Republics, Finland and Austria. But UNRRA does not provide any food for Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden; nor for any of the ex-enemy countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Romania). UNRRA is the only organization that operates on a large enough scale to make a dent in the problem of filling to any sizable degree the empty larders of Europe.

Delegates at the UNRRA conference in Atlantic City last week were given new hope and a shot in the arm by newly-chosen Director-General of UNRRA, Fiorello H. LaGuardia. Pointing out that "wheat has no political complexion," the ex-Mayor of New York stormed: "Protocol is off. . . I want plows, not typewriters, . . . Ticker tape ain't spaghetti. . . I want fast-moving ships." If anyone can get food moving across the Atlantic, many delegates felt, here is the man who can do it.

GIFT PACKAGES Some cowboys have asked for suggestions as to what to include in individual packages to take to individuals in port cities where they will land. We offer the following suggestions (courtesy of Politics Magazine). Easily carried items: Vitamin capsules, oil in tins, candy, sweet chocolate (sugar in any form), canned meats (like Spam). Specially needed: woolen clothes, pairs of shoes (any size - can be traded), coffee (in bean, tinned or Nescafe), cocoa, tea, razor blades, needles, thread, underwear, sweaters, wool socks, rubber and leather soles and heels. Other foods needed: canned meats and fish, dried eggs, bouillon cubes, dehydrated soups, powdered whole milk, figs, nuts, raisins, peanut butter, fruit cake, chocolate, Karo, Crisco, hard cheese, rice, any other high energy foods.

As to whom the packages can be given, list of individuals to contact in European ports have been drawn up and mimeographed. This lists include needy people in many ports. If in doubt, one can consult the local Red Cross representative, the UNRRA officer, private relief agency representative, local church leaders, or others. Lists are obtainable from Ben Bushong's office in New Windsor or from the CPS Education office in Elgin.

MORE OVERVIEW Just a few more facts to add to the overall picture presented in the last issue of the BULL PEN. UNRRA has promised to deliver to Poland, Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania and Czechoslovakia between October 1, 1945 and December 31, 1946, some 200,000 heifers and horses. Of course not all of these will come from the United States, but a large proportion of them will. This means about 300 round trips by livestock-carrying boats. It also means the use of some 8,000 cowboys (many of whom will repeat the trip several times). From October 1 last year to the end of the year 14 ships made the trip carrying 7,143 head of livestock from the United States. In the first three months of this year 25 ships have sailed lugging 14,631 head. In the first 18 days of April it is expected that about 16 ships will clear from American ports. This marks a decided speed-up in the program, but there is a long way to go to reach that 200,000th animal.

To care for the livestock in transit, each ship carries a veterinarian; a supervisor, regular UNRRA employee in charge of livestock and attendants; one or two foremen (sometimes known as crew leaders) who serve as liaison man in charge of immediate supervision of caring for animals; and from 9 to 35 livestock attendants (varying with the number of animals - 1 attendant to 25-30 animals). Salaries range from \$150 per trip for attendants and \$250 for foremen to \$9.80 per diem for supervisors and \$14 for veterinarians. While waiting for ships in American ports, men receive a per diem allowance - \$2.50 for attendants, \$4.60 for supervisors.