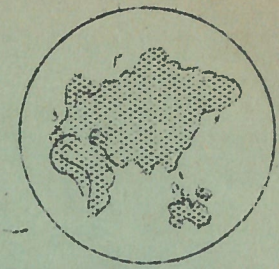




# MARINE BULL PEN



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

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## WHAT IS THE M.C.C. ?

For over a quarter of a century, the Mennonite Central Committee has served the Mennonites of North America as their common agency for administering foreign relief work. It was created in response to the call for help that came from the starving Mennonites of Russia in the great famine of 1920-22, and it has continued to serve in the common emergencies that have faced the Mennonites of North America since that time.

In a very real sense the Mennonite Central Committee is a spontaneous and essential organization and not an artificial one. It HAD to be and still HAS to be. As long as all the branches of the Mennonite family are held to a Christian faith and ideals which move them to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, and to seek to testify by loving service to the Gospel of peace, love, and non-resistance, they will seek an effective organization to serve them in their work.

The Mennonite Central Committee was created as a relief agency, and throughout its history until 1940 its work falls entirely under the heading of relief. It still functions first of all as a relief agency. However, it discovered in 1930 that refugees require not only relief but aid in settlement. The assignment of the CPS work to the M.C.C. in 1940 by the Peace Committee of the co-operating groups meant the addition of an entirely different field of work which has no essential connection with relief work. This step was taken solely because it was felt that it was unnecessary to create a second all-Mennonite service organization, since the MCC had demonstrated its efficiency and had acquired considerable prestige in its dealings with governments at home and abroad as well as in its relations to the various Mennonite and non-Mennonite groups interested in relief work and service.

Thus the Mennonite Central Committee has finally become the broad agency to serve the Mennonites in America in their needs for service in the two fields of relief and peace. There is a relation between these two fields and other interests of the Mennonites such as missions, charities, education, publication, and youth work, but the M.C.C. serves only in its assignments of peace and relief as these are committed to it by the participating Mennonite branches.

## FOREIGN RELIEF PROGRAM

**NORTHWEST EUROPE** A major part of the Mennonite relief work is in Northwest Europe. Sixty workers are now serving in eight countries in that area. Approximately one hundred fifty carloads of material supplies have been shipped to Europe in the past 15 months. Food, clothing, and utensils and tools included in these shipments were evaluated at approximately one and one-half million dollars. Blankets, German Bibles, and hymnbooks are also being prepared for shipment.

**FRANCE** Nurseries and children's homes are maintained by MCC personnel; food and clothing are distributed and centers are maintained at Paris and Chalon-sur-Saone. Fifteen workers serve in France. Addresses: BSC-MCC Office, 16 Bix Rue Mulitor, Paris; Secours Mennonite aux Enfants, 11 Impasse de la Tranchee, Chalon-sur-Saone (S.-et-L.), France.

**HOLLAND** The work was started in July, 1945, and the staff consists of 22 workers. Joint Dutch and American relief efforts are maintained at Amsterdam. Large shipments of food, clothing, shoes, soap, flour, meat and fats are distributed.

A builders unit, consisting of eleven men, are now working on the Island of Walcheren whose address is MCC, Box 43, Middelburg, Holland. The MCC Headquarters in Amsterdam is located at Singel 452, Amsterdam, Holland.

**BELGIUM** The work is similar to that in Holland and is staffed and financed by the Mennonite Relief Committee. Five workers are there now. Address: 6 rue Jean Heymans, Brussels 2, Belgium.

**ENGLAND** The Headquarters office for the Northwest European program has been maintained in London but will likely be moved sometime this summer. A home for convalescent boys is maintained near Manchester, "Taxal Edge." Address: 68 Shepherds Hill, London N.6, England.

**DENMARK** Walter Gering and Elna Esau are distributing clothing and doing welfare work among displaced Mennonites now in refugee camps. Address: Box 249, Vesterbro Post Kontor, Copenhagen V., Denmark.

**SWITZERLAND** In cooperation with the Swiss Mennonites a relief service and office is maintained to aid war sufferers in Alsace and South Germany. Address: Birkenstrasse 11, P.O. Box 48, Basel 9, Switzerland.

**GERMANY** Robert Kreider, member of CRALOG, has been in Germany since March channeling relief shipments. He is stationed at Wiesbaden.

#### OTHER AREAS

**CHINA.** The program there has steadily increased since the Commissioners, Goering and Graber, made an investigation tour in 1943. Relief efforts there have been carried on in cooperation with the American Advisory Committee. Eighteen workers are now in China, including six Registered Nurses, who work in the Hua Mei Hospital operated by the FAU. Edwin Schrag, ex-CPS, is helping to train mechanics and operators for 700 tractors in the relief plowing project. The Unit address is Canadian Church Mission, South Suburb, Kaifeng, Honan. Lawrence Burkholder maintains an office in Shanghai, c/o American Advisory Committee, Memorial Church Bldg., 316 Thibet Rd.

**INDIA.** The project is primarily medical work with a staff of six. Address: c/o Lee Memorial Mission, 13 Wellington Square, Calcutta, India.

**PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.** Dale Nebel, who will head the Unit, and Commissioner C.L. Graber are now making contacts preliminary to setting up a fourteen man medical and welfare project. They report the purchase of a fifty-bed hospital with enough supplies to run the hospital for three months. Address: 712 Right St., Manila.

**PARAGUAY.** Relief efforts are related to Mennonite colonization, and consists of professional help in the way of teachers and doctors. Shipments of food and clothing have also been sent. There are twenty-one workers in this area. Address: Comite Central Mennonita, 25 de Noviembre 371, Asuncion, Paraguay.

**PUERTO RICO.** A hospital center is maintained as well as a program of medical, community building, agricultural and mission work. There are forty-two workers (including twenty-two CPS personnel) here. Address: La Plata, Puerto Rico.

**ITALY.** Twelve workers are now in Italy working with the UNRRA program in connection with refugee camps and general welfare work. Address: UNRRA, Italian Mission, APO 794, c/o Postmaster, New York.

**ETHIOPIA.** A staff of five workers are doing medical work as well as food and clothing distribution. The work is sponsored by the Mennonite Relief Committee. Address: Mennonite Hospital, Nazareth Hadama, via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Africa.

#### MENNONITE AREAS IN EUROPE

Several cowboys have been able to contact various Mennonite people and bombed Mennonite meeting houses were visited. We list here several areas and towns in which there are Mennonite churches. Several boys have visited the church in Danzig and found that it was badly demolished. Before the war Mennonite churches were located in the following areas: E. Prussia, Danzig, Elbing, Ellerwald, Marienburg. Near Kiel Canal: Friedrichstadt. Along North Sea: Norden, Ernden, and Leer. Mennonite communities exist also in Berlin and Munich. Refugee camps for Mennonites are now in Denmark. See address in this issue.

## CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE RELIEF PROGRAM

Since the beginning of the Civilian Public Service Program in 1941, there have been many who wanted to serve the Relief program in some way. As time passed, the number of roles in which we could help seemed to increase. Now, when Mennonite shipments to Europe, Asia, and Africa are at an all-time peak, you will find a "Conchie" in every area of service.

One of the most dramatic areas of service is in foreign relief. Congressman have imposed a few legal restrictions (Starnes Rider) which have kept CPS men close to home, but as soon as releases came through, Irvin Horst left for Northwest Europe as unit leader; Boyd Nelson went to Italy; Dale Nebel sailed for China and then the Philippines to set up a new unit; Martin Schrag is waiting for transportation to India; and Robert Kreider is representing the Mennonite churches in Germany with CRALOG.

From Mennonite camps 121 men have been accepted for the CPS Reserve. Half of these have been released, so that now there are about 58. Nearer home, in Puerto Rico, there have been as many as twenty-two CPS men in the public health project at La Plata.

Within this country we have set up several material aid centers, and in all of these CO's have helped establish and operate the center. The Mennonite Churches operate six food and canning centers: Silver Springs, Pa.; Kalona, Iowa; Reedley, Calif.; Goshen, Indiana; a special project at Shafter, Calif.; and a portable cannery. All told, these centers use eighteen CPS men. They operate three clothing centers in addition to the food centers: Newton, Kansas; Reedley, Calif.; and Ephrata, Pa. Nine CPS men keep these in operation. In the MCC offices there are four full-time CPS men in addition to the regular staff tending to details, and paper work. To keep food and clothing moving from field to port, there is a full-time CPS man on the field and four CPS truckers.

It is significant that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of CPS men have donated money to the relief program. Since December 1, 1943, "conchies" in MCC camps have given \$39,425.01.

Summarizing, CPS men have had an outstanding part in the total relief program, and although we sometimes measure that "part" in terms of dollars, we must also consider the time element. And the matter of attitudes, which can make or break any program, can never be measured. It can only be appreciated.

## NEED IN POLAND

By a returned cowboy

Intolerance is great in Poland. I went into Danzig to watch the celebration of the liberation of that city from Germany by the Russians. The masses of people held a great parade in Danzig on the main street which had seen the most activity of the war. Everyone from the mighty men to the little children participated with shouldered guns and rolling tanks. This was to show their attitudes and their thoughts of the future Poland--all indicative of a mighty military power rather than a peace-loving country. This is not the complete picture but merely the shell.

I see a great need in Poland. Her future is dark and especially for the coming year. We went to some farmers who had received their horse and cow from UNRRA and they told us their story. With practically no machinery and only one horse and cow they cannot produce enough to sell. There is plenty of land and people can have farms for the taxes but with nothing with which to start, they cannot farm. This coming winter will see as great a need for help as the last several.

## COWBOYS SEE MCC PASTOR IN DENMARK

Arnold Friesen, Mountain Lake, Minnesota, and Merl Whitaker, Sardis, Mississippi, returning to the United States from Poland on the S.S. Joshua Hendy talked with Walter Gering, Moundridge, Kansas, in the post office in Copenhagen. The S.S. Joshua Hendy had stopped in Denmark to pick up sand ballast. Although the cowboys did not know Rev. Gering personally, they recognized him as an MCC worker since he wore the MCC insignia on his left coat sleeve. So far as we know this is the first and only meeting of cowboys with MCC relief workers in Europe. If there are others, please give us the facts and we will share your story with other cowboys.

## CONCERT IN GDANSK

On our last day in Gdansk, three of us went to a concert being given by a newly-born Gdansk orchestra. We took a German girl along who used to play Mozart on her family's piano. She hadn't heard any music for a year and the total cost of our tickets was more than her father would earn in a fortnight. The audience listened very, very carefully to every note being played, as if here were a jewel just picked out of the wreckage. The orchestra, all Polish now, played with assurance and a richness of tone that is rare in America except in really good orchestras. It occurred to us then, that here again, was music acting as the great unifier, binding together the sympathies of people who were ordinarily enemies. If only the differences of people could be blended together to form harmonies the way notes form music!