

The War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies

EXECUTIVE OFFICES:

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OUR DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE IN PARIS, FRANCE.

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The American Relief Clearing House, Paris, France.

There has been formed in France under the sanction of the French Government The American Relief Clearing House, with the Hon. Robert Bacon, as Honorary President, and Mr. H. H. Harjes, of Morgan, Harjes & Co. as President, with the object, among others, of receiving and properly distributing contributions for the relief of sufferers of France and her Allies.

Proper record will be made of its work and final account thereof will be rendered.

War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies, New York City.

For the purpose of co-operating with the movement in France a complementary association has been formed here under the name of War Relief Clearing House for France and Her Allies. Its objects are:

I.—To gather through the American Relief Clearing House of Paris or otherwise, and to disseminate in this country accurate information as to where relief is most urgently needed and the nature of the supplies which are required.

II.—To co-operate with relief organizations in different parts of the country engaged in like service, and, by placing at their disposal the facilities of the Clearing House, to aid in the distribution of such funds or supplies as may be contributed.

III.—To establish a strict accounting system for all money and supplies received and disbursed or distributed.

IV.—To prevent duplication in distribution of relief.

V.—As incidental to the foregoing the Clearing House shall, among other things,

(a) Supply information as to means and cost of transportation, aid in securing the best possible arrangements and terms therefor, give proper shipping directions, and, if desired, take charge of shipments;

(b) Upon request, act as purchasing agents for affiliated organizations in order to secure most favorable conditions of price, quality and delivery;

(c) Assist affiliated organizations in the verification and certification of the accounts of their receipts and disbursements when desired.

In order that *free service* shall be rendered by the Clearing House to the relief organizations which shall be or become affiliated with it, the Clearing House will itself defray the clerical and other expenses incident to the carrying out of its purposes. No contributions will be solicited on account of such expenses from any of the affiliated organizations.

FRANCE

In Northern France ten months of almost daily battles have wrought a greater destruction than exists in Belgium. The necessity of caring for the refugees from the devastated portions of France and the hundreds of thousands of Belgian refugees, together with the two hundred thousand French Civilian prisoners being sent back from Germany in complete destitution, has strained to the utmost the resources of the French people.

All hospitals, whether regularly organized or lately improvised, are crowded with sick and wounded in the midst of a dearth of hospital and medical supplies, and hundreds of thousands of sufferers count as their only possessions the tattered clothing in which they were driven from their homes.

WHAT IS NEEDED.

At this time, clothing (both NEW and CLEAN SECOND-HAND in good repair), especially underclothing, socks and shoes of large sizes; bedding, bandages, rubber sheeting in rolls and other hospital supplies are most needed in France.

PROHIBITED ARTICLES.

The laws of France prohibit the importation of tobacco, matches and playing cards. These articles must not be placed in packages with other things, as their presence may subject the entire package to seizure.

Contributors desiring to forward tobacco, medicines and drugs, such as chloroform, ether, etc., are requested to communicate with the War Relief Clearing House in all cases in advance of shipment, and special arrangements will be made with the French Line and the French Government to handle the contributions. These materials should also be packed in separate packages.

PACKING.

In order to secure the free ocean transportation provided for herein, shipments must be packed in bags, bundles or in wooden boxes not exceeding **four (4) cubic feet** in measurement.

All non-breakable dry goods such as clothing, beds, blankets and rubber goods, bandages or similar hospital supplies should be compactly and strongly wrapped, preferably in burlap. Sugar bags, potato sacks and grocery bags will serve very well for this purpose if in good condition.

Fragile or breakable articles or those which by leakage might damage other goods, must be securely packed in straw or excelsior in wooden boxes.

MARKING.

Shipments contributed to the American Relief Clearing House, Paris, for distribution must be marked:

FOR EXPORT
WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE,
150 Bank Street,
New York.

Shipments for particular consignees, comprising hospitals, relief organizations, etc., in France must be marked: FOR EXPORT

WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE,
150 Bank Street,
New York.

For.....
(Name of Consignee)
.....
(Destination)

All packages must be PLAINLY MARKED and bear name and address of shipper and description of contents.

TRANSPORTATION.

Contributions of supplies may be forwarded by freight or express, **prepaid** to New York, marked in accordance with instructions herein given. The principal express companies will accept shipments addressed to the War Relief Clearing House, New York, at **two-thirds of the regular tariff rates**. Regular tariff rate will be charged on shipments forwarded by **freight** to New York.

The French Line will provide free ocean transportation for War Relief Clearing House shipments consigned to the American Relief Clearing House at Paris for distribution, when packed in accordance with instructions.

On articles too large to be placed in packages of four (4) cubic feet the Steamship Company will assess a freight charge and the War Relief Clearing House will secure and quote rates on application.

To aid the Clearing House the French Government has granted the privilege of entry free from French import duties and of free transportation over French railways of articles consigned to the Clearing House.

DISTRIBUTION.

The American Relief Clearing House of Paris has inaugurated a system whereby its various investigating committees carefully determine the needs of sufferers and supervise the distribution of supplies contributed through the Clearing House.

Contributions for particular consignees, if recognized hospitals, organizations or societies, are accepted by the Clearing House for delivery as consigned; but as the American Relief Clearing House of Paris, through its investigations, knows at all times where relief is most urgent, contributors are urged to leave, as far as possible, the distribution of relief supplies to the discretion of the American Relief Clearing House.

SERVIA

"To-day one million Servians, one-third of the population, are suffering every possible sorrow. They are destitute of everything. Since the beginning of the war, when their lands were turned into battlefields, they have endured terrible privations, and their sufferings have been still greater during the war because the first invasion took away a great proportion of the peasants, who remained behind to provide food for the families of those who were fighting.

ALFRED STEAD, in the New York Herald.

"Hospitals are full everywhere with typhus. I met on the country roads many victims too weak to crawl to a hospital. Scarcely enough people remain unstricken to dig graves for the dead, whose bodies lie exposed in the cemeteries.

"No braver people exist than the Serbians. They have never a word of complaint. In one hospital I saw a fever patient, his magnificent voice booming songs to cheer his comrades. Some were in delirium calling for "Mother."

"The situation is entirely beyond the control of the present force, which imperatively needs all the help it can get."

SIR THOMAS LIPTON.

WHAT IS NEEDED.

The first and greatest need in Servia is for blankets, hospital supplies, clothing, and seeds for planting.

TRANSPORTATION.

Shipments for Servia will preferably be forwarded via Marseilles or via Piræus to Salonika, through the Serbian Agricultural Relief Committee which has effected advantageous arrangements for direct transportation to Salonika.

Owing to the uncertainty as to actual dates of sailings from New York, also as to the variation in ocean rates, etc., **contributors are requested to communicate with this office for instructions before forwarding contributions.**

MONTENEGRO.

"This is the fourth year of war through which Montenegro is passing, side by side with Serbia—the fourth year that we are enduring the same sufferings and the same needs.

"Before the present war Montenegro was in need of help—but now, when epidemics of typhus, typhoid fever and other diseases are raging, the conditions are terrible. The hospitals are crowded and doctors and medical supplies are sadly lacking.

"I feel sure that if attention is called to the terrible suffering and need for assistance in Montenegro, a generous response will result."

CAPT. A. V. SEFEROVITCH.

WHAT IS NEEDED.

At this time medicine, disinfectants and hospital supplies are most urgently needed.

TRANSPORTATION.

Owing to the extreme difficulty at times in getting shipments to Montenegro, it is necessary to make special arrangements for each shipment, and the Clearing House, upon request, will make the necessary arrangements for transportation of any contributions to Montenegro. Contributors will please communicate with this office for instructions before forwarding their contributions.

RUSSIAN POLAND

The "Eastern Theatre of War" is in Poland and the surging of the vast armies of Germany and Russia back and forth has devastated this unfortunate country beyond description. The noncombatants—women, children and others—are without clothing, shelter and necessary food. These unfortunates are in the midst of the war area and cannot escape.

"The whole of Poland, which is the scene of the war on the Eastern front, has been laid waste. Over 200 towns and boroughs and 7,500 villages have been destroyed. Seventeen million people are enduring in some form or other the horrors of this gigantic struggle. Very many of them are actually dying from hunger.

"More than any other country, Poland has at one and the same time been the theatre, the object and the victim of the present war. The Poles of military age are fighting in each camp for a cause that is not their own. The Polish nation is being torn to pieces.

"I want to ask the public to help materially to save as many people from famine as possible."

PADEREWSKI.

WHAT IS NEEDED.

Imperishable food, clothing, medical and surgical supplies are badly needed.

TRANSPORTATION.

The Clearing House, upon request, will use its best efforts in securing the most favorable terms and rates for transportation. However, as conditions in Poland are constantly changing contributors will please communicate with this office for instructions concerning their contributions before forwarding them.

GREAT BRITAIN—BELGIUM

The British War Relief Association, with offices at 132 West 27th Street, New York, and the Commission for Relief in Belgium, with offices at 71 Broadway, New York, are especially equipped for transportation and distribution of supplies for non-combatants in Great Britain and Belgium respectively, and are doing work of inestimable value. It is not the purpose of this organization to encroach in any particular upon the work of the British War Relief Association or the Commission for Relief in Belgium, and we refer all contributions destined either to Great Britain or Belgium to the above mentioned Organizations.

NOTICE

Shipments will be forwarded on first available steamer. The War Relief Clearing House does not in any case assume liability for loss or damage to shipments. Upon advance request, the War Relief Clearing House will arrange for insurance at current rates, at the expense of the shipper.

Contributors are requested to advise the War Relief Clearing House at 150 Bank Street, New York, when shipments are forwarded, enclosing shipping receipt and list of contents, weight and approximate value of packages.

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

The Clearing House is in receipt of information from its correspondents in Europe as to emergency cases in which the immediate use of medical and hospital supplies, etc., is imperative. For this reason it is important that as liberal cash contributions as possible be received in order to provide promptly for such cases.

WILL YOU HELP?

Never in the history of the world has there been a greater human need than now exists. It matters not where the blame for this awful catastrophe may lie or who should, in pursuance of the rules of war, feed and clothe the sufferers. The great fact remains that millions of our fellow beings are suffering for the bare necessities of life and we, the fortunate people of war-free America, must promptly do our part in this supreme crisis.

If there is a relief organization in your locality will you not become active in its great work at once? If you have no local organization for relief work will you not take immediate steps to form one?

ORGANIZATIONS ALREADY AFFILIATED WITH THE WAR RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE FOR FRANCE AND HER ALLIES.

American Ambulance Hospital	Secours National
American Girls' Aid	Serbian Agricultural Relief Committee
Belgian American Relief & Unemployment Fund	Special Relief Society
French Artists Relief Committee of the Society of Beaux Arts Architects	The Vacation War Relief Committee.
Mayfair Relief for Convalescents and Refugees	Emergency Aid Committee, Philadelphia, Pa.
Georgia War Relief Committee for France and Her Allies	Atlanta, Ga.
Hartford Relief Committee for France and Her Allies	Hartford, Conn.
National Civic Federation of Women	Boston, Mass.
Ohio Commission for Relief of European War Sufferers	Columbus, O.