

BULLETIN

Thirty-one years of service



under the Red & Black Star

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE



Dickey and Tony Chapelle

This little Polish boy is only one of millions of orphans, our legacy of the war. He is more than a reminder of the past. He is our responsibility of the present and our challenge of the future.

ORPHANS — LEGACY OF WAR by ESTHER B. RHOADS and EMILIE BRADBURY
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Orphans - Legacy of War

Regardless of whether nations emerge from war as victors or vanquished, the children are always the losers.

by ESTHER B. RHOADS

Relief work in Japan is under the direction of LARA—Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia, of which the AFSC is a member. Esther Rhoads, supported by the Service Committee, has been one of the three representatives commissioned to direct its work in Japan. In this country for a few months, Esther Rhoads will return to Japan late in October. Shipments to Japan have included food, clothing, textiles and medical supplies. Subsidiary supplies are also sent to Korea and to Okinawa.

a small fee and is presided over by a boss who claims a share of each boy's earnings. On fine days they made enough to buy food on the black market. When it was warm enough to sleep without bedding, life was easy, and of course, full of interest and free from restraints and responsibility. But before long the gang learned that welfare officials were picking up their comrades, and they scattered. Tadashi boarded one of the Tokyo trains, making perhaps half a dozen stops in cities along the way, where he fell in with similar vagrants and somehow eked out a living.

When we found him, cold weather was coming on and he apparently had not had luck in joining a company in Tokyo. He had been picked up seven times already, but had escaped from each receiving Home to which he had been sent. This time he was taken to one of the best orphanages, where 60 waifs had been added to the pre-war family of 25 or 30 orphan children.

After months on the street, it is hard for a boy to readjust to school life, and it was some time before Tadashi was able to fit into the regular school pattern. The extra ration of food from LARA which this institution received, as did several hundred others, was a help to Tadashi, and soon he was feeling well and strong again and making friends with his roommates. Ten months later Tadashi's relatives were located by the orphanage.

We have seen hundreds of children started back to normal again through the help of LARA supplies. One attractive lad turned himself over to the police because he had run out of money. He had been evacuated with other children of a primary school. After the bombing of Osaka, he never heard from his family. He returned to the temple in which the school was housed and stayed there for nearly a year after the close of the war. Finally, as the last unclaimed child, he was allowed to set off on his own to hunt for his relatives. He had the addresses of four or five uncles and aunts, but at each address he found nothing but rubble.

LARA Clothing Replaces Rags

We have visited institutions where small children were taken immediately after the bombings. These children were usually found about the railway stations, most of them too young to know their own names. Their last names are now registered as "Eki," which means "station." Any identifying garment or early impressions were carefully recorded. Though few have found their relatives, some are now being identified by fathers who are returning from Russian-occupied sections of Asia.

LARA clothing has been a great help to those in charge of these institutions.

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by EMILIE BRADBURY

The Anglo-American Quaker Relief Mission in Poland distributes food and clothing to children, students and old people, hauls building materials, sponsors school affiliations and voluntary service work camps. Future plans include developing community work in Krakow. Emilie Bradbury has been with the Polish Mission since its beginning in 1946, working especially among orphans and half-orphans. She plans to return to Poland in February.

THERE are 1,500,000 orphans and half-orphans in Poland. I came into contact with 14,000 of them in the Krakow area, and I met the people who have courageously assumed responsibility for them. It is a sobering experience. Not that the boys and girls are sober, for they are as jolly and friendly and natural as our own youngsters of the same ages. Perhaps, however, they are not as carefree and seemingly thoughtless as ours sometimes are, for their experience has been different.

How many of us in the United States would have the courage to undertake the care of thousands of these boys and girls when we saw no immediate prospect of providing them with beds, bedding, linen, clothing, or proper food; when there was not even trained personnel available to care for them? Yet all over Poland this work has been and is going on for 1,500,000 children.

The beginning of this work in the Krakow area was undertaken almost immediately after the liberation, for the Poles were determined not to have the gangs of "wild children" which developed in some countries after World War I. Our first contact with their program was in November, 1946, when it had been going on for some months. Responsibility for minors is divided in Poland between the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare for those from birth through

three years of age, and the Ministry of Education for children from four through eighteen. In Krakow, we who represented the Anglo-American Quaker Mission worked more closely with the latter group; however, we tried also to help the babies and their mothers. When we started, there were already over 100 institutions caring for these children.

It must be remembered that Poland was one of the countries, if not the country, most damaged by the war. Not only its physical property suffered, but also a great proportion of its educated population was systematically selected and killed. Personnel, therefore, was, and still is, a major problem.

Boys in a Home in Krakow surround Emilie Bradbury during one of her visits. Whether she brought clothes or not, she was a welcome visitor.



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In Poland

One of the chief jobs of a foreign organization allowed the privilege of helping in the rebuilding of a country is to strengthen, wherever possible, the work of the locally responsible agencies. The foreign agency should work itself out of the job as soon as possible. In our case, the local organization was the Child Welfare Department of the Board of Education for the city and state of Krakow. It has been an inspiring experience and

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In Japan

THOUSANDS of war waifs were roaming the streets in Japan when LARA representatives arrived in 1946. During the first year after the surrender, so little food was available that many of the children who had been gathered in orphanages ran away to beg on the streets or to shine G.I. shoes for a few coppers. Today, with the help of LARA in supplying food and clothing for the Children's Homes, nearly all of these children are off the streets.

Tadashi, one of these youngsters who had been trying to make his own way two years ago, was frequently seen around the LARA office. His clothes were ragged, his feet bare and caked with black dirt, for he spent his nights on the platforms of the lower level of Tokyo railway station, where freight and express are handled. We were interested in Tadashi, and after several attempts persuaded him to go to one of the orphanages.

Tadashi was about 10 years old, and had come all the way from Shimonoseki—24 hours distant by express train. His trip was made in many short stages. For a while he had shined shoes at the Hiroshima station, where he belonged to a company or gang of boys. Each company demands