
Register of the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee records

Processed by Jessica Lemieux.

Hoover Institution Archives

Stanford University

Stanford, California 94305-6010

Phone: (650) 723-3563

Fax: (650) 725-3445

Email: hooverarchives@stanford.edu

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Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Processed by:

Jessica Lemieux

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Collection Summary

Title: Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee records

Dates: 1914-1923

Collection Number: XX333

Creator: Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee (London, England)

Collection Size: 2 manuscript boxes(0.8 linear feet)

Repository: Hoover Institution Archives

Stanford, California 94305-6010

Abstract: Reports, correspondence, descriptive accounts, and meeting minutes relating to work conducted by the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee during World War I and in its aftermath. Includes documentation of Quaker relief and rebuilding efforts in France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, and Poland.

Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives

Languages: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee records, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog Socrates at <http://library.stanford.edu/webcat> . Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in Socrates is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

Historical Note

The Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee was originally established by the London Yearly Meeting in 1870 to assist civilian towns damaged by the Franco-Prussian War. This Quaker relief effort is particularly notable because it established a policy of no discrimination between the sides in war. Prior to World War I, War Victims' Relief Committees were revived in Eastern Europe (1876) and in the Balkans (1912). As World War I broke out, the War Victims' Relief Committee was reestablished to undertake relief work and post-war reconstruction. The work began in the Marne district of France and expanded to include the Netherlands, Russia, Germany, Austria, and Poland. Following America's entry into the war, the American Friends Service Committee became involved with the War Victims' Relief Committee as well. The relief work of

the Friends War Victims' Relief Committee was cited by Gunnar Jahn, Chairman of the Nobel Committee, as he gave the presentation speech for the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize to the Friends Service Council and the American Friends Service Committee.

Scope and Content Note

Reports, correspondence, descriptive accounts, and meeting minutes relating to work conducted by the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee during World War I and in its aftermath. Includes documentation of Quaker relief and rebuilding efforts in France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, and Poland.

The Society of Friends War Victims Relief Committee worked throughout World War I to reduce the impact of the fighting on the civilian population, and helped both the Allied and the Central powers recover after the war was over. The Committee's work included providing food and clothing, establishing orphanages and hospitals, combating typhus and tuberculosis, encouraging agriculture and manufacturing, improving prison conditions, and rebuilding destroyed homes. The collection is arranged alphabetically by country receiving aid.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into 5 series: Austria-Hungary, 1919-1921; France, 1914-1920; Germany, 1919-1923; Holland, 1915-1918; and Poland, 1916-1923. The original arrangement by country was maintained, reflecting the local nature of work done by the War Victims' Relief Committee. The files describing work done in Holland were separated from those describing Austria-Hungary, since the aid provided was different in each country. Within each series, folder titles and arrangement were imposed during processing due to the absence of a useable original order.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog. Society of Friends.

Friends' Emergency and War Victims' Relief Committee (London, England).

War victims.

International relief.

World War, 1914-1918.

World War, 1914-1918--Civilian relief.

World War, 1914-1918--Austria.

World War, 1914-1918--France.

World War, 1914-1918--Germany.

World War, 1914-1918--Hungary.

World War, 1914-1918--Netherlands.

World War, 1914-1918--Poland.

Related Material

Emergency and War Victims Relief Committee publications, Hoover Institution Library

Box/Folder: 1 : 1-6

Austria-Hungary, 1919-1921.

Physical Description: (0.2 linear feet)

Scope and Content Note

Consists of correspondence, reports, and descriptive accounts of the conditions and relief work in Austria and Hungary after World War I. In addition to information about agriculture, prisons, clothing distribution and hospitals, includes detailed descriptions of the plight of hungry Viennese children and students.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Box/Folder: 1 : 1

Correspondence, 1919-1920

Box/Folder: 1 : 2

Descriptive accounts, 1920

Box/Folder: 1 : 3

Descriptive accounts, 1921

Box/Folder: 1 : 4

Descriptive accounts, undated

Box/Folder: 1 : 5

Reports, 1919-1920

Box/Folder: 1 : 6

Reports, 1920-1921

Box/Folder: 1 : 7 -
2 : 5

France, 1914-1920.

Physical Description: (0.4 linear feet)

Scope and Content Note

Contains reports, correspondence, descriptive accounts, and meeting minutes. Comprises the bulk of the collection, including detailed reports of work accomplished. Depicts civilian life in the Marne district and along the Western Front, and documents medical, agricultural, manufacturing, and food assistance.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Box/Folder: 1 : 7
Box/Folder: 1 : 8
Box/Folder: 1 : 9
Box/Folder: 1 : 10
Box/Folder: 1 : 11
Box/Folder: 1 : 12
Box/Folder: 1 : 13
Box/Folder: 2 : 1
Box/Folder: 2 : 2
Box/Folder: 2 : 3
Box/Folder: 2 : 4
Box/Folder: 2 : 5
Box/Folder: 2 : 6-9

Articles and descriptive accounts, 1915-1919

Correspondence, 1914-1918

Minutes, 1915-1917

Minutes, 1918-1920

General reports, 1914-1915

General reports, 1915

General reports, 1916-1918

Agricultural reports, 1915-1918

Agricultural reports, 1918-1919

Building reports, 1916-1918

Manufacturing reports, 1918

Medical reports, 1916-1918

Germany, 1919-1923.

Physical Description: (0.1 linear feet)

Scope and Content Note

Includes correspondence, reports, and descriptive accounts of postwar conditions in Germany. Focuses on starvation conditions, tuberculosis, and education. Discusses devaluation of the German currency.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Box/Folder: 2 : 6
Box/Folder: 2 : 7
Box/Folder: 2 : 8
Box/Folder: 2 : 9
Box/Folder: 2 : 10

Correspondence, 1919-1921

Descriptive accounts and reports, 1919-1920

Descriptive accounts and reports, 1921-1923

Descriptive accounts and reports, undated

Holland, 1915-1918.

Physical Description: (0.02 linear feet)

Scope and Content Note

Reports documenting conditions in Holland for Belgian refugees during the war. Describes camp organization and providing work for the refugees.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Box/Folder: 2 : 10
Box/Folder: 2 :
11-14

Reports, 1915-1918

Poland, 1916-1923.

Physical Description: (0.08 linear feet)

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, reports, and descriptive accounts discussing reconstructing agriculture and homes, food programs, and preventing typhus. Also includes brief descriptions of relief work in East Galicia, West Ukraine, and Serbia.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by physical form.

Box/Folder: 2 : 11

Correspondence, 1919-1923

Box/Folder: 2 : 12

Descriptive accounts, 1918-1923

Box/Folder: 2 : 13

Descriptive accounts, undated

Box/Folder: 2 : 14

Reports, 1916-1920