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ALLEMED WOMEN IN THE WAR

(Rough draft of cable received from London)

Five-thousand women of the Allied countries under Nazi domination, women of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Free France, Greece, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia are now actively in work in England for the Allied cause.

Some have escaped from the Nazi terror, others have been doing valuable work here for sometime, many have families still in German-occupied territory - all unite in the belief that their job is in Britain, fighting in the common cause. Women of the Allied countries are nursing members of their forces and civilians in Allied and British hospitals. They are organizing, cantans, hostels and homes for the comfort and well-being of their compatriot soldiers; are caring for refugee mothers and children, finding occupation for the mothers, schools for the children and homes and comforts for both.

They carry out relief work for civilians, the forces and war prisoners through Allied Commissions of Red Cross, often contacting families still abroad. They inculcate the traditions of their countries in escaped children in schools which their Governments have established. They are secretaries, typists, economists and information officers in their countries' Governments. They work for the present and for the future, planning economic and social assistance for their compatriots in the new regime which is coming when the Nazis are expelled from their countries.

BELGIUM

The Belgian Contessa De Boussies, mother of four children and a nurse of the service De Santos, the Belgian forces in England, conducts the newly-opened rest home in London for Belgian refugees, to which Mrs. Anthony Drexel Biddle has given her help and her name as a "Marraine". "mère-male refugees rest before joining the forces. It was established with the aid of generous funds from America. Madame De Boussies, a member of the Belgian Red Cross since 1936, took up the duty when war broke out. After leaving her children with her mother in Brittany, she worked with Belgian units at Nantes, Paris and Alencon, the closed frontier preventing her from going to Belgium. She left France via Saint Malo passing the German enroute, arriving in Saint Malo four hours before its port was blown up and escaping to Southampton in a troopship. She worked at first in the Civil Service nursing reserve in England and secondly as a secretary for the Red Cross with the Belgian forces. Fifty other nurses work with the Belgian Medical Corps, while others entirely staff the large Belgian Hospital, where they assist Belgian doctors. Army nurses and Red Cross nurses staff the disabled Belgian soldiers home. Other Belgian women carry out diversified forms of war work.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The leading personality among 400 Czechoslovakian women war workers in England is Mademoiselle Marie Faulby, Vice-chairman of the Red Cross and the Slovakian-Anglo-American Society. Born in Slovenske Pravno, she went to America with her parents when she was eight years old, retaining her nationality. She worked with the Y.W.C.A. accompanied the Red Cross to Siberia in the last war as an interpreter and returned to liberated Czechoslovakia where she worked for the Y.W.C.A. with frequent trips to America. A correspondent for the Associated Press at the outbreak of war, she left shortly after a warning from friends and arrived in England in 1939, via Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy and France. Others in England include 100 military and civilian nurses and 12 Red Cross dental and
FRANCE

One hundred and fifty Free French women in England are members of the Volontaires Françaises, a military organization resembling the A.T.S. Forty more are Assistantes Sociales, handling the general welfare of the forces, civilians, war prisoners and nursing. An additional hundred are canteen workers, secretaries and typists under the Free French Government, Army and Navy. Women in the Volontaires who free men for duty overseas include nurses, secretaries, clerks and cooks - all uniformed. Their commandante is Captain Hélène Tère, a sympathetic, strong personality who is not only completing the organization as a military body, but is also combining the duties of military and family head, and training girls for suitable posts. Originally a publisher, Mrs. Tère, at the outbreak of war, helped to organize nursing auxiliaries and trained 60 girls in First Aid, map reading and convoy driving. She combined with propaganda work the increasing of the forces to nearly 1,000. In Belgium during the German breakthrough, she returned to Paris, leaving shortly before the German occupation. Missing the rendezvous with the ambulance service, she tended the wounded at Fontainebleau and had many adventures moving in and out of occupied France without papers for two months. She later joined her chief and went to England where she wrote propaganda, recruited for the Free French Government and became the head of the Volontaires last month. The Assistantes Sociales include military and civilian nurses. Some train in groups of six to go to Syria, while two groups went already in January as nurses and drivers. Others provide social service for civilian refugees, largely the wives and children of soldiers. When the war is over, these women will be prepared for succouring, clothing and feeding their compatriots in France. They arrange the welfare for Free French military camps, distributing comforts, books and cigarettes and taking and delivering cables to relatives in Occupied France through the British Red Cross and the E.C.C. They contact English "Godmothers" for service men, arranging to exchange letters and invitation to home, and also to take care of wives and children of the Free French Forces. In conjunction with the British Red Cross they organize a war prisoners' section. The leading organizer is Madame D'Assonville, the distinguished Irish-born wife of De Gaulle's Chief-of-Staff, who has lived in Paris or French colonies for 17 years, some 10,000 miles from Peru via New York and Iceland to join the Free French, and with her husband regularly broadcasts to France.

NETHERLANDS

Fifteen hundred Dutch women reinforce the war effort in various ways. In England, many are on the shipping and trading committee which controls vast imports and exports. Others are clerks to the Dutch Government staff or members of the A.T.S., W.A.A.F., members of the Red Cross and nurses. Dutch doctors and nurses entirely staff the Dutch hospital. Many work in Emergency Committees to assist refugees, under the control of Jonkheer Van Lith De Joode, High Commissioner for relief work. The leading emergency committee woman is Madame Beets Riek, ex-actress of Amsterdam, who arrived in England last May with her husband and children after a perilous journey, sleeping in a straw, hiding from bombs and crossing in a cattleboat. Her husband works with her, her son, an ex-correspondent of a Dutch newspaper, is employed by the Dutch Government in London. Other Dutch women assist on the clothing Committee under Juvrouw Michiel Van Vervuye, wife of the Dutch "Minister to the Court of Saint James, who works 14 hours daily distributing clothing and accumulating comforts for post-war use. The Netherlands Press Officer is Mademoiselle Louis Naakman, a slender, smart ex-correspondent of Geneva and Berne of "Algemeen Handelsblad" newspaper. The Gestapo's telephone tapping and other attentions persuaded her to go to England where she is doing admirable work and hopes to go to America after the war. Another journalist, who escaped in 1940 with her husband and two
children, now studies Dutch economic conditions and plans for relief after the war.

The Deputy Clerk of the recently-established Netherlands Maritime Court is a small, dark, bright-eyed Dutchwoman, Dr. K.P.A. Aakerman-Webber who with her husband and two children participated in the Dunkirk retreat. Half-way in Belgium, the Aakermans, caught in the German sweep to the coast, were bombed and shelled until a Scotch soldier got them aboard a small boat, then aboard a destroyer.

NORWAY

Nine hundred Norwegiennes rallied to the Allied cause in England and many more arrive monthly deploring the death penalty for attempting to escape and risking airplanes, U-boat and submarine and mine attacks. Recently a young mother crossed the North Sea with three children aged 8, 4 and 1. German planes machine-gunned the boat, killed the helmsman and wounded members of the crew, while a grenade fell down the stovepipe and exploded near her head. In her desire to work to the last gasp, she is typical of hundreds. Norwegiennes registered under the government scheme work in hostels, hospitals, dental clinics and convalescent homes and also teach in the newly-opened school for 22 Norwegian children. Red Cross members make hospital requisites and comforts for the troops and children's clothes, and pack goods for eventual use in Norway and for immediate use by seamen and refugees, and conduct an Anglo-Norwegian correspondence already aggregating 60,000 letters. Fifty-two between 18 and 32 years old are undergoing a course of English typing, shorthand, cookery, dietetics and ambulance driving. One girl, aged 16, who had driven a truck in wartime, recently reached England, eager to be a pilot, in the meantime becoming an office worker. The famous Norwegian actress, Madame Gerda Grieg, recently came to England from America, having left Norway the day after the Government, accompanied by her husband, the well known author, Norsell Grieg. She has spent every day in the past two weeks visiting hostels throughout England singing to 33,000 Norwegian seamen in England.

POLAND

Five hundred Polish women work for freedom in England. Three hundred are occupied with nursing and civilian relief under the brilliant directorship of Madame Paskowaka, Red Cross Secretary General. A hundred and eighty are nurses in two large Polish military hospitals, in consulting rooms for Polish civilians, in dental clinics and with 27 ambulances generously sent from America. A hundred and fifty distribute comforts from America to the Polish Forces and civilians. They also staff rest houses for airmen, seamen and nurses and carry out canteen work. Two hundred do clerical work for the Polish Government. Many will join the Polish Women's Service Corps, organizing to work with the A.T.S. Others teach in Polish Government Schools for refugee children. Paskowaka, associated with the Polish Red Cross for 20 years, has attended many international conferences as a member of the Executive. She went to America in 1939 to discuss war time cooperation. Going to France in October, she helped organize the Polish Red Cross, remaining during the fighting and went to England in June 1940 via Bordeaux with a small case of necessities to work indefatigably for the Polish people.

Madame Lisniowska, talented daughter of a landowner in Podolia in southeast Poland, is planning better social and economic conditions in post war Poland and other Central European states. She spent her holiday in England in 1939, could not return owing to the invasion of Poland, and undertook war work here.

YUGOSLAVIA

Thirty distinguished Yugoslav women, many from Italy and France, work in England on the Yugoslav Red Cross and Yugoslav Relief Society. The organizer of the latter, which plans eventual relief of distress in Yugoslavia.
is Princess Romanovskaya-Pavlovskaya, British-born wife of Prince Vasenolode of Russia, who through his mother Princess Helen of Serbia is a cousin of King Peter of Yugoslavia. She works all day collecting to buy medical supplies, ambulances, food and clothes. Her vice-chairman is Mrs. Geoffrey Kennedy, formerly Daska Ivanovic-Rana, a friend of the Duchess of Kent.

Married in 1938, Mrs. Kennedy has twin babies of three who have been evacuated to America with her mother. Recently arrived from America, now chairman of the Yugoslav Red Cross and president of the Relief Society, is tall, dark Madame Simovic, wife of the Yugoslavian Prime Minister, who formerly lived in Belgrade, leaving with the Government on April 20. The headquarters of the Relief Society is an Arlington House flat, lent by an American sympathizer.