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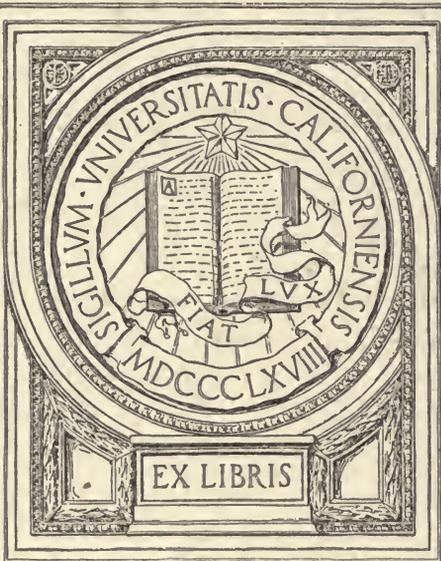
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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

COMMISSION TO GREECE

RELIEF WORK  
AMONG THE AEGEAN ISLANDS

BY MAJOR A. WINSOR WELD  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT  
OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS

*Athens*  
*July 1, 1919*



ATHENS

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*From: Major A. Winsor Weld, Deputy Commissioner.*  
*To: Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Capps, Commissioner*  
*to Greece.*  
*Subject: The Aegean Islands and the American Red Cross.*

As Director of the relief work carried on in the Aegean Islands by the American Red Cross Commission to Greece, I beg to make the following final report.

Our attention was first directed to the distress which prevailed among the Aegean Islands, owing to the massing there of refugees in large numbers from the mainland of Asia Minor, by telegrams which were received in the early summer of 1918 by the National Headquarters in Washington asking for help for the refugees on the Island of Lesbos. Realizing that there was no time to be lost, the National Headquarters requested the Commission to Italy to get together a large shipment of clothing and medical supplies and rush them to Mitylene. A vessel was furnished by the Greek Government and loaded at Naples toward the end of September. The cargo was placed in charge of two officers of the Italian Commission, Captain Stevens and Captain Wilkins. Owing to many delays, the shipment did not reach Piraeus until after the arrival in Athens of the advance party of the Commission to Greece. Consequently the task of taking to Mitylene and distributing

these supplies was turned over to the Greek Commission. A party of four persons was immediately organized and Captain H. B. Dewing placed in charge. They sailed from Piraeus on November 6th and arrived in Mitylene on November 10th. From that time until May 16th, 1919, when the last station in the islands was closed, the work of alleviating distress in this region was carried on continuously, the scope of our work being extended as rapidly as the arrival of personnel and supplies would permit.

Three main distributing stations, each with its own head and personnel, were established: At Mitylene on the Island of Lesbos; at the city of Chios on the island of that name; and at Vathy on the Island of Samos. The head of each station reported at first to the Commission in Athens, and, after January 7th, when one of our Deputy Commissioners was appointed to act as Director of all our work in these islands, to this Director. Each station maintained a residence for the personnel, a warehouse for supplies, and suitable quarters for its various activities. From the three stations thus established distribution was made to the various villages of the island itself and to the other islands in the neighborhood.

The problem of transportation was always exceedingly difficult. The warehouses of the several stations had to be replenished from Piraeus and the personnel transferred, not only from Athens to each island, but also from one island to another. In all this business speed was of the utmost importance. Although the Greek Government furnished free transportation of supplies and personnel, the sailings were irregular and at rather long intervals. Furthermore, the distribution of relief from the several stations to the villages of the islands, most of which are only accessible from the shore, required that the services of light power-boats, capable of carrying several tons of supplies, should be at the disposal of the stations. For

the interior villages our supplies usually had to be transported by mule or donkey, the personnel riding also—for good roads are almost unknown there. Trips of three or four days in length were made to groups of villages, followed by a return to the main station for a new supply of articles to be given away. This method involved considerable hardship for our personnel, but was at any rate fairly regular and certain. As regards sea transport-



*U.S. Submarine Chasers 125 and 217. Detailed, together with four others, by the Navy Department, to assist in carrying supplies and personnel.*

ation, no complete solution was ever found for the problem. Great assistance, however, was rendered by the six submarine chasers kindly placed at the disposal of the Commission to Greece by the Secretary of the U.S. Navy. The problem would have been completely solved by their presence had it been found possible to carry on them the more bulky supplies and to maintain at each station a large amount of gasoline for their use in making the circuit of the islands. Even these difficulties were overcome

to a large extent in certain cases where the commanding officer of the chaser happened to be enthusiastic about the work and determined to render the greatest possible assistance—which, unfortunately, was not always the case. Furthermore, at the time when our work was at its height, the chasers were withdrawn for a considerable period.

Three stations were established and continued as follows: One at Mitylene, which also served the islands to the north as far as the Dardanelles, was opened on November 10th and closed April 15th; one at Chios, serving the islands of Chios and Oinousai, was opened January 6th and closed May 3rd; and one at Vathy, Samos, which also served the Island of Ikaria, was opened January 9th and closed May 16th.

As stated above, relief work at Mitylene was undertaken as the result of a decision made at Washington on advices received from that island. In the case of the other islands, stations were established only after a personal investigation had been made by this Commission. On December 10th I set out for Mitylene, where I was joined by Captain Dewing, who accompanied me to Chios and Samos. This trip of investigation was made the subject of a special report which I made to the Commission after my return to Athens on December 24th. Some extracts are here given from that report.

«The islands are very similar in character, being extremely mountainous and having on each only one town of any importance, the population being scattered in little villages, most of which can be reached only by using donkeys or boats, as there are few roads and those which exist are in bad repair.

«The number of refugees on each island at the time we began our work, according to the best information which could be secured, was as follows:

Island	Popula- tion	Number of villages	Number of hospitals	Refugees					
				Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Infants	Total
Mitylene ...	190000	62	7	5500	21000	10000	9500	5500	52000
Chios .....	70000	40	2	3000	9000	3500	3000	1500	20000
Samos .....	60000	30	2	1650	4250	1750	1600	750	10000
Lemnos....	—	—	—	300	700	325	300	75	1700
Imbros ....	—	—	—	250	650	275	250	75	1500
Tenedos ...	—	—	—	150	300	150	150	50	800
Samothrace	—	—	—	75	200	100	100	25	500
Oinousai...	—	—	—	125	300	125	100	50	700
Ikaria.....	—	—	—	125	300	125	100	50	700

«There had been about 100 percent more refugees on each island at first, but many of the able-bodied men have either joined the army or have left to work elsewhere, and the ravages of typhus and influenza account for the rest of the depletion.

«The hospital accommodations are very inadequate, there being none except in the main towns on each island. Mitylene is the best provided, having the following:

Community	Hospital . . . . .	60 beds
Refugee	» . . . . .	60 »
Contagious Disease	» . . . . .	20 »
Tuberculosis	» . . . . .	45 »
Venereal Disease	» (for women)	25 »
Military	» . . . . .	70 »
Refugee Orphanage	» . . . . .	97 »

Chios has a mixed civilian and military hospital of 250 beds and Samos one military hospital, containing from 45 to 50 beds.

«Owing to difficulty in securing transportation, I was unable to visit several of the smaller islands on which there were refugees, but, from information I obtained, the following islands all contained refugees who are probably

in the same condition as those on the larger islands:

Lemnos . . . . .	1,700
Imbros . . . . .	1,500
Tenedos. . . . .	800
Samothrace . . . . .	500
Oinousai . . . . .	700
Ikaria . . . . .	700

«In none of the islands have the refugees settled as part of the regular population, and I have no doubt but that practically all are awaiting the first opportunity to return to their old homes in Asia Minor.

\* \* \*

## I. LESBOS

«The island is about 45 miles long and 30 broad, with a population of 190,000. The main town is Mitylene and is situated on the east coast. The principal products are olives and tobacco, and, before the war, the inhabitants were prosperous.

«On December 14 Captain Dewing and I left Mitylene on the Iperochi and reached Chios at 4:30 P. M.

\* \* \*

## II. CHIOS

«This island is about 30 miles long and 18 miles broad, with a population of 70,000. Its principal products are olives and a wine called mastique, which is made from a gum obtained from a bush, or shrub, which grows wild in the valleys. The main town is named after the island and is situated on the east coast. There are 20,000 refugees on this island at the present time, quartered partly in evacuated Turkish houses and partly in wooden barracks built for the purpose. These barracks are about 150 feet

long and 20 wide, partitioned only down the middle of their length. Rooms are formed by hanging bagging or old carpets on strings, each family having one of the small sections thus made. There is a small open hearth in each barrack, on which all do their cooking. There is little attempt to provide sanitary arrangements. As the barracks are very temporary affairs, after four years of use they are in very poor condition and leak badly.

«We left Chios on December 17 on a Greek torpedo boat and reached Samos at 7:30 P. M.

\* \* \*

### III. SAMOS

«This island is smaller than the other two visited, being only 24 miles long and 12 wide. The main town is Vathy on the northeast coast. Tobacco and grapes are the principal products, the latter making a very delicious sweet wine. The refugees here were better off, as there were only 10,000 and, consequently, about 75 percent of them had found work. Their living quarters, however, were just as crowded as elsewhere and sanitary conditions very poor.

#### SUMMARY

«Clothing, medicine and food are all needed. As it has taken all the money refugees could get to feed themselves, their clothing, at the end of four years, is mostly rags. Very few children have shoes and stockings. Owing largely to the epidemic of influenza everywhere, the hospitals are very much in need of medicine. Although I did not find any cases of actual starvation, yet all were underfed and very much in need.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

«I would recommend that, as soon as the personnel and supplies can be obtained, groups of workers should

be sent to the three islands of Mitylene, Chios and Samos. These groups should consist of:

1. Women to open and run workshops for the making of clothes.
2. Men to undertake the distribution of food and clothing.
3. Doctors, or at least one doctor for the three groups, to take up the question of the proper distribution of medicine.



*A Refugee Family of Mitylene and the Home in which They had Lived Four Years.*

As a certain amount of work has already been done at Mitylene, I would recommend that the first group to go out be sent to Chios. As regards serving the smaller islands mentioned in my report, the first four of these could be served from Mitylene, Oinousai from the island of Chios, and Ikaria from the island of Samos, provided we have our own boat».

## CRETE

At a later date Major James and Major Black, at the request of the Commission, also visited the island of Crete, where they found some 2,000 refugees from Asia Minor. Since the number was so small in comparison with the population, these refugees were being well cared for. Accordingly, no special relief work was undertaken in Crete; but a considerable amount of hospital supplies was sent thither as the result of this investigation, and an Infant Welfare Station opened at Canea. Regarding the hospital relief, reference is made to the special report on the subject by Major Black.

The personnel who worked at the relief stations on the Aegean Islands has been as follows.

\* \* \*

## PERSONNEL OF AEGEAN ISLANDS

BARNETT, Second-Lieutenant Bion H. Jr. -- Field Worker		
Mitylene	January 23 to March 20	Distribution
Samos	March 25 to April 30	Distribution
BEDELL, First-Lieutenant Arthur S. -- Field Worker		
Chios	January 31 to March 26	Head of Station
BUNTING, Miss Laura B. -- Nurse		
Samos	January 31 to May 17	Director of Ouvroir
BUTLER, First-Lieutenant William R. -- Field Worker		
Samos	January 31 to March 31	Head of Station
CLARK, Mrs. Harriet V. -- Physician		
Chios	January 5 to May 3	Distribution
DEWING Captain Henry B. -- Secretary of the Commission		
Mitylene	November 5 to December 14	Head of Station
Chios	January 5 to January 13	Established Station
Samos	January 13 to January 19	Established Station
DONALDSON, Captain Joseph E. -- Field Worker		
Mitylene	January 18 to April 16	Head of Station
DRAPER, Miss Merle A. -- Field Worker		
Chios	January 31 to May 3	Distribution

FLEMING, Miss Mary R. — Nurse		
Mitylene	January 18 to April 4	Distribution
FUDGE, Miss Elizabeth M. — Field Worker		
Chios	January 31 to February 22	Distribution
Mitylene	February 22 to April 16	Distribution
GILBERT, Miss Blanche E. — Nurse		
Mitylene	January 18 to April 16	Director of Ouvroir
GLAUBER, Miss Marie C. — Nurse		
Mitylene	November 5 to February 5	Distribution and Director of Ouvroir
HARRISON, Miss Oleita H. — Field Worker		
Chios	January 10 to January 31	Head of Station
Chios	January 31 to March 26	Director of Ouvroir
Chios	March 26 to May 3	Head of Station
HAZLEWOOD, Mrs. Ethel G. — Field Worker		
Samos	January 31 to May 17	Head of Station
JOHNSON, Miss Lena M. — Nurse		
Chios	February 17 to March 25	Distribution
JONES, Captain George P. — Field Worker		
Mitylene	November 5 to December 14	Distribution
Mitylene	December 14 to January 15	Head of Station
KELLY, Miss Katherine G. — Nurse		
Mitylene	January 25 to March 3	Distribution
LEMON, John — Field Worker		
Mitylene	December 10 to January 21	Distribution
MC COY, Miss Anna H. — Field Worker		
Samos	January 15 to February 8	Head of Station
MC GINNELL, Miss Helen C.		
Chios	January 12 to January 20	Assistant in Ouvroir
MC ININCH, Captain David C. — Field Worker		
Mitylene	November 5 to November 18	Distribution
MINGANE, Miss Mary F. — Nurse		
Samos	January 31 to March 13	Distribution
PHELAN, Miss Marie T. — Nurse		
Mitylene	January 25 to March 20	Distribution
RODOCANAKI, Miss H. — Nurse		
Samos	January 15 to March 10	Assistant in Ouvroir
ROMEOS, Dr. A. — Physician		
Chios	January 15 to March 10	Distribution

WALKER, Major Samuel J.—Deputy Commissioner

Mitylene, Chios & Samos February 15 to February 26 Investigation

WELD, Major A. Winsor—Deputy Commissioner, Commanding District  
of Aegean Islands

Mitylene, Chios & Samos December 10 to December 24 Inspection

Mitylene, Chios & Samos February 15 to February 25 Inspection

The relief distributed from the several stations will be reported separately for each station. The following table exhibits the amount and kind of relief received by the several islands:

	Food Tons	Garments Number	Other Articles Number	Persons Aided	Institu- tions Aided	Charities Aided	Garments Made	Women Employed
Mitylene ...	105	97,085	5,662	34,952	5	5	30,000	500
Imbros ....	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1,170	200	1,158				
Samothrace	2	610	50	457				
Tenedos ...	5	940	150	458				
Chios .....	72	25,296	857	21,877	2	4	12,000	60
Oinousai ...	2	370	57	635				
Samos .....	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	10,125	16	5,225	1		8,026	50
Ikaria .....	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	2,480		800				

In drafting this the final report, I have drawn freely upon the preliminary reports which have been made from time to time regarding the conditions on the Aegean Islands, and upon the final reports made for each station by the officer last in charge. These reports are now on file in Washington. They are as follows:

Major Weld..... Report on the Aegean Islands (Investigation).

Captain Dewing..... Report on Mitylene.

Major Weld..... Report on Aegean Islands (Inspection).

Miss Harrison..... Report on the Island of Chios (Final).

Mrs. Hazlewood..... Report on the Island of Samos (Final).

Captain Donaldson..... Report on the Island of Mitylene (Final).

Major James..... Report on the Island of Crete (Investigation).

Major Walker..... Medical Conditions on the Islands.

Major Black..... Report on the Hospitals of Crete.

The work in all the islands was of the same general character—relief work limited, for the most part, to the refugees who had fled from Asia Minor at the outbreak of the war. In each island there had been established a refugee bureau which kept a careful record of the names, ages, etc., of the refugees and attended to the payment of about six cents a day per person which the Government allowed and to the running of municipal soup kitchens,



*A Group of Refugees; Mitylene.*

which gave a small bowl-full of soup every other day to each refugee.

At the time of our arrival we found relief work very necessary, as the amount of help the Government could give was insufficient for support and, as the islands were so crowded, work was scarce and only at low wages.

The living conditions of the refugees in all the islands was very bad, as they were housed in empty and half destroyed houses, leaky wooden barracks or damp cellars. One small room had to serve for an entire family, and the larger rooms were divided by bagging, hung on string, into sections, one to each family.

Considering the crowded and unsanitary conditions, it is a great wonder there was not more sickness than there was. We could, of course, do little regarding housing conditions, so directed our endeavors toward alleviating the suffering of the refugees by distributing clothing and food, and by opening workshops which not only manufactured garments to be distributed, but also enabled the women to earn a little money. We also conducted a free dispensary in Chios, since we found more sickness there than elsewhere.

The reception given our workers in all the places was most hearty and generous. The officials tried in every way to make our people comfortable and to help them in their work. Houses were requisitioned for living quarters and warehouses for storerooms and distributing rooms. In none of the stations were we allowed to pay for these, and in Mitylene even the servants and food were provided free of charge. The people everywhere greeted the American Red Cross most enthusiastically and their thanks and gratitude were at times embarrassing, as it seemed to us that we were doing so little.

Most of our supplies were given directly into the hands of the refugees by our own workers in order that our help should not be merely of the physical kind, but should also bring into it something of a personal element and thereby help to cement a friendly feeling and to show that the American people were directly interested in their lives and comfort. We also, however, gave help in the way of gifts of food to the municipal soup kitchen and sent many gifts of food, beds, blankets, sheets, medicine, etc., to the hospitals. The local charities as well were not forgotten, for we found that in many cases they were well organized with good committees and eager to help but were having difficulty in obtaining necessary supplies; we therefore presented them with many hundreds of garments to distribute.

By the middle of April general conditions had become much improved; food was becoming more plentiful and lower in price; the spring planting was giving occupation to many and conditions in Asia Minor were such that the refugees were beginning to go back to their old homes in large numbers.

It was decided, therefore, that it was time for the American Red Cross to close its work, as the emergency stress was over; we consequently closed our stations one after the other, the last to close being Samos on May 16th, as previously stated.

I am adding as an appendix to this report some extracts from the reports of the leaders at each station. These extracts will serve to give a clear idea of the conditions as we found them on our arrival, of the actual work of distribution and of the results accomplished.

In closing I want to say a word of high praise for the personnel who worked in the islands. Conditions were often extremely uncomfortable and hours long, but there was no word of complaint, everyone seeming to consider it a privilege to have been given the opportunity to do his or her share of the work.

+ + +

*Major Dewing on Mitylene.*

*Extract from Report dated December 12, 1918.*

«The party of four designated to bear relief to Mitylene sailed from Piraeus on November 6th, and arrived in Mitylene on Sunday afternoon, November 10th, where it met with a wildly enthusiastic reception by the people of the city and the refugees. A demonstration was held before the hotel where the party was received, speeches of welcome were made, and a band of four pieces did its best to render the national anthems of Great Britain, France

and Greece; the «Star Spangled Banner» was beyond their powers. The party was then escorted to carriages, the horses unhitched, and the carriages were drawn by a cheering crowd to the residence of the Governor-General, where a call of ceremony was made. After the call, the party was drawn by the same cheering crowd through the streets of the city, by a wide detour, back to the hotel. The demonstration was spontaneous and continuous, and testified to the warmth of feeling which fills the heart of the Greek people and the gratitude they feel to the American nation, to President Wilson and to the American Red Cross. The streets resounded, during the progress through the city, with cheers for the American people and for President Wilson\*).

«The Governor immediately gave orders that a house should be commandeered and put at the disposal of the American party. This house was fitted out with everything necessary and four servants were detailed to care for the house and provide for every need. All expenses for food and living were met by the Government and the party was instructed that they would not be called upon to make any expenditures in Mitylene. A carriage was also provided for use at all times in the city or in the country:

«The first days were spent in inspecting the living conditions of the refugees, first in Mitylene and later in the neighboring towns. All possible information was gathered as to their numbers, their location and their particular needs.

«In Mitylene great destitution was found to be almost universal. A large number of refugee families were visited by Captain Dewing and Miss Glauber, and great care was taken to draw no conclusions except those based upon

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\*) The name and fame of President Wilson is familiar in every household on the Island of Mitylene as, indeed, it is through the length and breadth of Greece.

personal observation. The refugees are housed in the old Venetian fortress and in abandoned Turkish houses, with no furniture, scant clothing, little bedding—both clothing and bedding being merely a patchwork of rags—and



*Mitylene, Refugees Awaiting Distribution.*

receiving a very small living allowance and a pitiable dole of food from the Government\*).

\*) The Turkish houses were those vacated by the Turkish occupants in 1912, when the island passed from Turkish to Greek rule. The Greek refugees from Turkey entered them in 1914 and 1915. They are in a very bad state, the refugees having no means of making repairs; most of them are so near the point of collapse as to be actually unsafe.

The living allowance for one person is 9 drachmai per month, paid at intervals of two months. For two persons in one family the allowance is 16.50 drachmai per month; for three persons, 24 drachmai; for four persons, 30 drachmai; for seven persons, 48 drachmai; and for eight persons, 54 drachmai.

The dole of food is made from soup kitchens in Mitylene, one dish of soup or vegetables being given each day to the poorest refugees; such kitchens are not found in the towns outside of Mitylene, except in one or two cases.

«It was found that sanitary conditions in and around the houses of the refugees were exceedingly bad; the circumstances under which they live are hence a menace to health and make the rise and spread of disease inevitable. Furthermore, a serious moral problem is created by the crowded living arrangements. A family of eight or ten persons was often crowded into a single room, making privacy impossible\*). Prostitution has become common in consequence. Infant mortality was found to be very high, owing to inadequate shelter and clothing and insufficient nourishment. The hospital founded in Mitylene to care for the refugees was found to be in great need of equipment\*\*).

«Valuable information as to sanitary conditions among the refugees was contributed by Dr. Vaudremer, of the French Army Medical Corps, who had been assigned to Mitylene by the French Government in order to combat the typhus epidemic. Isolated cases of typhus are still found on the island and the conditions under which the refugees live make a recrudescence to be dreaded at any time.

«Inspection of refugees in outlying towns revealed conditions even worse than in the capital\*\*\*).

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\*) In the city of Mitylene each family, irrespective of its size, is limited to a single room. In the country towns there is usually more space available, each large family having two or three rooms. The families quartered in the fortress at Mitylene, in Turkish mosques and in other large buildings, secure a semblance of privacy by hanging tattered curtains of burlap, or other material, across the corner assigned to them.

\*\*\*) One hospital has been opened in the city of Mitylene for the treatment of refugees, but it is a temporary institution, poorly equipped, and has accommodations for only about 80 patients; it is quite inadequate to meet the needs of the refugees. However, the refugees are as well off as the native population in the city of Mitylene. During the typhus epidemic of 1917—1918, patients were isolated in a temporary lazaretto built for the purpose.

\*\*\*) It was found that about seventeen thousand refugees are quartered in the city of Mitylene and about thirty-five thousand in the other towns of the island—a refugee population of fifty-two thousand quartered on a native population of 180,000. Every town, even the smallest,

«Disease and malnutrition are common. The rooms where the refugees live are often without glass in the windows and many of them are basements with no floor except the earth and no light except that admitted by the door. In the town of Mandamados a number of refugees are quartered by families in bins built for the storage of olives; these are approximately cubical, with an interior dimension of about eight feet, and a single door about two feet above the ground. The bins, about fifty in number, are built in a continuous row around an olive-oil factory. Starving babies were frequently seen; illness from malnutrition was common; and tuberculosis is making ravages everywhere. Often a doctor, or medicine, was entirely lacking\*).

«It was found that the refugees were sometimes called upon to pay rent for the miserable quarters assigned them. In one village, where there are two hundred refugees, there are no free quarters to be had. They pay, usually, about eight drachmai per month for a single room. The

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has its quota of refugees. The most remote of these towns lie at a distance of two days' journey by land from Mitylene. Comparatively few of the swarm of refugees who came have found a place to fit into the industrial life of the island, even with a large part of the native laboring classes temporarily absorbed by the army. It is estimated that, at one time, the island contained 120,000 refugees. The great majority of men able to work were immediately taken into the army or went to Salonica to find work. At the present time, the able-bodied men among the refugees would not amount to more than five per cent of the entire number. The refugees in Mitylene are made up of old or infirm men, women (many of whom are widows), and children. It is a striking fact that every refugee now in Greece is eager to return to Asia; as soon as opportunity is given them to go back, they will all go—not one will remain. In conversing with them, the question is inevitably asked, «When shall we return?» And they often ask it with tears in their eyes.

\*) The Government engages the services of physicians to look after the welfare of the refugees, but they are often careless in the performance of their duties, or inefficient.

Government allowance is entirely inadequate to provide nourishing food, especially at present prices, and the refugees have absolutely nothing to spend for clothes. These people have little bread to eat and never see meat. In some cases the local committees may be culpable for neglecting to make proper efforts to secure from the Government regular remittances, physicians, etc.\*).

\* \* \*

## DISTRIBUTION OF CLOTHING

A) *In the City of Mitylene*: Distribution was commenced in the city on November 15. A ticket system was used, orders being issued to the refugees at the refugee bureau; these were taken by those who received them to the warehouse, where they received the clothing assigned them. Owing to the comparatively small amount of clothing on hand, it was impossible to issue clothing to all. Only about 25 per cent of the total number of refugees were served in the city of Mitylene. Of course, every effort was made to get the clothing into the hands of the most needy; the refugee office had to be depended upon to supply the necessary information. A personal inspection of the needs of each family would have been the only thoroughly satisfactory method of procedure, but this would have required a large working force and unlimited time.

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\*) The interests of the refugees in each town are looked after by committees, the members of which are often refugees themselves. There is a central committee and a refugee bureau in Mitylene, and local committees are found in all the towns. These committees keep registers of the refugees resident in the several towns and record all births, deaths, and changes of residence, and they assist in the bi-monthly payment of the Government allowances. Each refugee family has an identity book, in which a photograph of the family usually appears, and in this book is recorded, from time to time, all assistance received from the Government.

«From the first, great difficulty was encountered with the crowds of people applying for help. On November 17 the throng became unmanageable and a source of peril from the sanitary point of view, although ten policemen had been assigned to keep them in order. It was obvious that the situation could not be handled without a change of method, and the issue of tickets directly to the refugees was immediately stopped. Thereafter, lists of the most needy families were prepared by the refugee bureau, the orders were written, as before, and were given to the refugees through the bureau. This method proved exceedingly slow; the bureau prepared the lists at a very slow rate and much time was occupied in getting the orders into the hands of the refugees.

«On November 20, Captain McIninch, in obedience to orders from Lieutenant-Colonel Capps, sailed on the steamer «Hellespontos» for Kavalla, taking with him about one-half of the merchandise originally assigned to Mitylene.

B) «*In Towns Outside Mitylene*: The distribution outside of Mitylene was commenced on November 27. The first town served was a half-hour's drive from the city and the whole party participated for the purpose of instruction. Thereafter the other towns near Mitylene were served, one after the other, one American and an assistant taking charge of the distribution in each town. Each worker was able to serve two or three towns each day, returning to Mitylene at night. The clothing, previously wrapped in parcels, was carried in bags or in boxes on wagons provided by the Governor\*).

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\*) Two pieces of clothing were usually issued to each person. These pieces were tied together in parcels and were considered a unit issue for women, girls, boys, infants or men, as the case might be. This parcel system greatly facilitated the packing and the issue of goods in the outlying towns.

«The towns which could not be served in one day presented a much more serious problem. The question of transport was particularly trying. Efforts were made, without success, to secure a small steamer to carry the goods to several distributing points around the island. Failing in this, we were obliged to take advantage of such occasional boats, sailing craft and gasoline launches as could be found sailing for the different ports on the island. Two weeks were occupied in sending out shipments to seven different distribution points, to await the arrival of American workers to distribute the clothing\*).

«Distribution was commenced immediately and the towns in each sector were served from the nearest distributing point, a quota of clothing being sent to each town and the worker passing from town to town to distribute. It was necessary to depend on the hospitality of the residents of the towns, and this hospitality was always offered eagerly. Where roads existed, wagons could be used for transport; where there were no roads, as often happened, it was necessary to pack the clothing in bags and have it carried over the trails by animals, while the worker either walked or rode. Often the trails were such that even riding on the cleverest of animals, the mule, was inadvisable. Rainy weather made the work still more difficult and the distribution progressed very slowly. There are some eighty or ninety towns on the island of Mitylene and not more than two or three could be served in one day; in the case of isolated towns, it was often necessary to spend one whole day in serving each town. Where the distances permitted, two or three towns were served at one central point, but, in general, the refugees were not

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\*) It was always necessary to have the distribution made by an American; the local committees could not perform this part of the work, and did not wish to undertake it.

asked to come more than a half-hour's journey to receive the clothing.

«Each town visited was eager to do honor to the representatives of America, and especially the remote towns where an American uniform had never been seen within the memory of the present inhabitants. An American flag had been made for the occasion, as a rule, and the worker was greeted by a procession, with flags flying, bells ringing and whistles blowing—for the olive-oil factories were all running at this season and almost every town has at least one factory. There were always speeches of welcome and the best entertainment possible in a little country town was eagerly given. In fact, the eagerness of the committees and of the people to receive and help the worker, and to keep him with them, often delayed the actual work of distribution. The advice «wait until tomorrow» had to be sternly combatted at every turn, even at the risk of disappointing one's hosts».

On December 12th, Captain Dewing left Mitylene in company with Major Weld, in order to accompany him in making an inspection of the refugee situation on the islands of Chios and Samos. Captain Jones was left in temporary charge, assisted by Miss Glauber and Corporal Lemon, until a fresh shipment of supplies and a new personnel should arrive from Athens.

\* \* \*

*Captain Donaldson on Mitylene.*

*Extract from Report Dated April 20, 1919.*

«On January 18th I sailed from Piraeus on the U. S. Submarine Chaser 128, together with Miss Fleming and Miss Gilbert, with instructions to take charge of all Red Cross relief work in the five islands of the Greek Archipelago, Lesbos (commonly called Mitylene), Lemnos, Ten-

edos, Imbros, and Samothrace. We arrived at the city of Mitylene on January 19th. Miss Kelly and Miss Phelan joined us a few days later and after a month Miss Fudge was added to our company.

«Miss Gilbert assumed responsibility for the workroom during its operation; Miss Fleming was in charge of the cutting room for a time, then turned it over to Miss Kelly when she herself took charge of the distribution room. Miss Phelan's long experience in child welfare work made



*Cutting Room, Mitylene.*

her assistance valuable in investigating the homes of the people and in determining the aid to be given the orphanage, hospitals and other local institutions. Miss Fudge assisted in the village distribution as well as in the workroom, and during the last weeks of the life of the station she and Miss Gilbert lent the woman's touch to the work of food and clothing distribution in the islands of Tenedos, Imbros and Samothrace.

«The American Red Cross made distribution of supplies at the following centers to a total of 37,062 persons:

*Island of Lesbos*

Town of Mitylene . . .	Distributed to 20,584 persons		
» » Eresos . . . . .	» »	1,600	»
» » Plomari . . . . .	» »	1,800	»
» » Molyvos . . . . .	» »	2,400	»
» » Mandamados . . . . .	» »	1,200	»
» » Yera . . . . .	» »	1,500	»
» » Polychnito . . . . .	» »	810	»
» » Kalloni . . . . .	» »	1,890	»
» » Kedros . . . . .	» »	600	»
» » Pyrgi . . . . .	» »	175	»
» » Mistinia . . . . .	» »	261	»
» » Peghi . . . . .	» »	100	»
» » Ayasso . . . . .	» »	300	»
» » Assomato . . . . .	» »	135	»
» » Katotritos . . . . .	» »	297	»
» » Therma . . . . .	» »	564	»
» » Pamphila . . . . .	» »	175	»
» » Perama . . . . .	» »	597	»

*Island of Tenedos*

Town of Tenedos . . .	» »	458	»
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*Island of Imbros*

Town of Kastron . . .	» »	1,158	»
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*Island of Samothrace*

Town of Samothrace . . .	» »	457	»
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«The situation which Captain Dewing in his report characterizes in the middle of November as «almost universal destitution» had materially changed by the latter part of January. The need for help from outside sources was still urgent, but by no means general, and the new conditions brought about by the action of the Peace Conference seemed to justify confining the work in Lesbos

largely to the city of Mitylene and its suburbs, and extending similar aid to the chief city on each of the three islands to the north of Lesbos, that is to say Tenedos, Imbros and Samothrace. In a word, the reason was this: from every hamlet in the islands the stream of refugees wending its way to their abandoned homes on the mainland had begun, and the least the Red Cross could do was to try to provide those departing with necessary clothing and blankets and a month's supply of staple foods. Exception was made to the rule in the cases of



*Group of Refugees.*

Perama, Plomari, Katotritos, Molyvos, Pamphila, and Thermai on the island of Lesbos, all of which received generous assistance of both food and clothing as well as Mitylene and the immediate environs.

«Another strong consideration for this change of plan was the sad condition of the local non-refugee poor in the chief city of each island. The sudden influx of one to every four of the local population would have been enough under any sort of circumstances to work havoc in the local labor situation; four years of warfare had made it indefinitely worse, and the political conditions in Greece

prior to her entry into the war as one of the Allies had merely added to the weight of woe. In the following pages I will report the steps the Red Cross took to meet the situation.

«The problem which the Red Cross was thus called on to solve, reduced to its last analysis, was: to lend a sufficiently generous amount of temporary assistance to the largest possible number of returning refugees who were worthy of assistance; to care for the most urgent needs of the local poor whether of Greek or of Turkish nationality; to interest as many local people as possible in all manner of philanthropic enterprises; and to hold up the hands of those who were carrying the burden of the local relief organization.

«On our arrival we found the chief of the refugee bureau for these islands operating four soup kitchens for refugees in the city of Mitylene, and hard put to it to obtain food with which to keep them in operation. Two days later the Red Cross agreed to supply two days rations of beans per week for these kitchens, where more than 6,500 were being fed each day. Some days later we agreed to furnish six cases of milk and 300 pounds of sugar per week to be used in cooking the rice which the Government was then providing on two days per week. When the supply of rice was exhausted, the Red Cross provided the rice also, first two days, and later three days, per week, and then, in order to make a good job of it, supplied the flour from which the macaroni was made for the two remaining days of the seven.

«Coincident with our support of the refugee soup kitchens, abundant supplies of milk and sugar were furnished the local refugee hospitals for all their needs. From the same date as well the making of clothing by the local refugee women was started; and during the ten weeks it was continued a few more than 30,000 garments were made,

for which the sum of approximately 20,000 drachmai was paid into about 500 refugee homes in the city of Mitylene.

«The method by which this was possible was very simple and at the same time very economical and effective. Instead of maintaining a large sewing-room and supplying a large number of machines to a limited number of workers, we thought it wise to operate only a cutting-room at headquarters, and to send the cut material done up in suitable packages into the homes to be made there, where the mother might be near her children; then the completed garments were brought back to the office where they were inspected, counted, checked and paid for. In order that the number thus aided might be as large as possible, it was our practice to refuse further work to a woman after she had earned from 25 to 30 drachmai. It may seem that this was a pitifully small amount, as indeed it was, but it is well to remember that it was none the less about the same as a three months' refugee allowance from the Government.

«In order to be fair to the women who had lost their machines when obliged to flee from their homes, or had been obliged to part with them after arriving in Mitylene in order to live, we operated for a short time a small sewing room with 16 of our machines and thus gave employment to about 30 women.

«The orphanage had shared generously in the distribution of supplies by Captains Dewing and Jones and Miss Glauber. Before Miss Phelan's arrival I had supplemented slightly the previous gifts, and later, after Major Walker had visited us and satisfactory plans could be worked out, large gifts of staple foods were added, with the understanding that Miss Phelan be invited to share in making the large plans for the future methods of the institution, as regards not only the diet for the children, but also the general management of the place. It is worthy

of note that at one time the finances of the institution were in such a state that the directors had made plans to close the doors and turn the children into the street, and in all probability would have done so had it not been for the assistance of the Red Cross in setting matters right again. The Greek authorities estimate the gifts to the orphanage at more than 150,000 drachmai.



*Awaiting Distribution.*

«Acting on the advice of the best people of Mitylene, including the Prefect and the Mayor, as well as the Governor-General, and under authority from you, the Red Cross was able to lend substantial aid to more than 400 families of local poor in and about the city of Mitylene. Of these some 365 were Greek and the remaining 35 or 40 of Turkish nationality. The method used in reaching them was this: A local club of women with an executive committee of 12 ladies interested in the poor was approached and invited to act as our distributing agents. To prevent favoritism, increase the number of women interested in such work, and lighten the burden of each one concerned,

we stipulated that we be allowed to add 12 other ladies of our own choosing, selected from all parts of the city, and that each of the 24 be allowed to select 15 of the poorest families in her neighborhood, list their needs, and look to the Red Cross to supply her with the clothing asked for as well as a certain quantity of rice and flour, which she was herself to deliver to the homes for which she assumed responsibility.

«Lists were carefully checked to avoid duplication, and, when corrected, sent to us. The bundle of clothing was then tied up and a card bearing the name of the family was attached to it. Fifteen such bundles were put into a cart along with 300 lbs. of flour, 100 lbs. of rice, 3 cases of milk, 2 dozen cakes of soap and 7 dozen pairs of socks and sent to the home of one of the 24 ladies. The plan worked so well, there was so little complaint of unfairness and so much general satisfaction, that three weeks later we sent each woman an additional three sacks of flour and three sacks of rice. I should not omit to say that in the first distribution to the local poor the leader of the local Turks received from us six sacks of flour and two of rice, and in the latter one ten sacks of each with an abundant supply of clothing for his 35 families of Turkish poor. His letter of gratitude, which I have already sent on to you, is one of the most touching expressions of gratitude I have ever read.

\* \* \*

## AIVALI AND THE GREEK RED CROSS

«When the stream of refugees from Lesbos to the mainland had reached respectable proportions, and the number of families that had left for Aivali alone passed the 400 mark, the Turks suddenly shut off all supplies reaching Aivali from the interior, in an effort to starve the Greeks out and compel a return to the Greek islands

off the coast whence they had returned to their homes after more than a four years' absence. For a few days the situation was critical, but not for long. Acting under authority previously given me to care for the needs of returning refugees for one month after their departure, I secured from the refugee office a list of the families that had gone to Aivali without having received Red Cross aid on departure, and then sent at once to the Greek Red Cross at Aivali this list of names and abundant means to supply their temporary needs. Two or three days later when your telegram of authorization came from Athens we added generously to the supplies which had been sent, and the Turks, realizing they were beaten, gave up the boycott and the danger was past. It is not too much to say that the usefulness of the Greek Red Cross in Aivali was doubled, if not trebled, by the assistance rendered it from the American Red Cross.

+ \* +

### TENEDOS

«After waiting weary weeks for the U. S. Chaser to return, we finally received your authorization to make whatever other plans might then be possible to reach Tenedos, Imbros and Samothrace; a long conference with the Governor of Lemnos had convinced us it was not wise to undertake an expedition to that island when there was so much greater need in those mentioned. Although it would have been a great privilege to sail under the American flag to these historic islands, we were none the less very fortunate in securing the services of a staunch French trawler for the work of distribution there.

«Shortly after April 1st we loaded more than five tons of food and clothing aboard the little «Camelia»; and the next morning found us steaming into the harbor of Tenedos, the chief and, in fact, the only city on the island of

the same name, some 18 to 20 miles south of the entrance to the Dardanelles and some three or four miles off shore. We had been anxious to reach Tenedos for several weeks, as reports kept reaching us that the refugees there were in great need, as indeed they were. Some weeks before



*Happy with Red Cross Gifts. Refugees of Chios.*

our arrival the last of the government stock of flour had been used, the sailing vessel that had gone to Mitylene for more had not returned, and the poor were paying exorbitant prices for the little that had been hoarded, or were going without. It is needless to say that our two and one-half tons of real American white flour was nothing less than a godsend to the 458 people who shared it.

Nowhere have I seen refugees more grateful for the help given, and nowhere did the local committee make greater efforts at co-operation.

+ + +

## IMBROS AND SAMOTHRACE

«Immediately on the return from Tenedos, the *Camelia* was again loaded, this time with more than 10 tons of supplies for the two islands named above, situated to the northwest of the entrance to the Dardanelles, roughly speaking 40 and 60 miles distant. Another night journey along the coasts of Troy with *Ida* gleaming snow-capped in the distance in the moonlight, and we were at the little town of *Kastron* on the north shore of *Imbros*. We had arrived on the Greek national holiday corresponding to our own Fourth of July, so any attempt at distribution was useless. We counted ourselves fortunate to be able to unload about two-thirds of our supplies and got away at once for *Samothrace* with the remainder.

«Arriving at the port for the village, which has the same name as the island, we went up to the village itself, distant about an hour's walk, to spend the night and make plans for the distribution at the port the following morning. Quite a sensation was created by the little party, as *Misses Gilbert and Fudge* were the first American girls who had visited the place for the last fourteen years. The first citizen of the town entertained us at dinner in the evening, and the Governor honored us with his presence. By sunrise the following morning most of the refugee population, some 30 families of local poor, and a large number of interested spectators were wending their way by twos and threes toward the port.

«Three hours later the task was finished, farewells said, and we were on board the *Camelia* rounding the western tip of the island and heading back for *Imbros* to make

good the promise to distribute there that afternoon. But it was not to be so. The god of the sea raised such an uproar of the waves that we were glad to cut and run for shelter in the lee of the island as soon as we felt his full power in the open sea. In the afternoon we ventured to up anchor and slip away for Imbros over a gradually calming sea. Breakfast over at 6:30, we were ashore at seven in the midst of some 1000 refugees who had gathered the previous day from the seven or eight villages of the island, and, knowing that we could not have landed even if we had arrived, had waited patiently through the night for our arrival the following morning. Thanks to the stupidity of the local representative of the Governor, who had taken the refugee books with him, we were unable to get to work before ten in the morning or away before about two in the afternoon, after having given assistance of food and clothing to more than 1100 persons. There was less need here than in Samothrace, and much less appreciation.

«A late afternoon journey close in by the entrance of the Dardanelles, the graveyard of so many heroes from the new world during the fatal days there a few years ago; sunset over little Tenedos with the plains of Troy and gleaming Ida beyond and the wine-colored sea all about us; marvelous silver-golden moonlight in the narrow channel opposite the old Dolphin-rider's home; dim outlines of the island which guards the port where Aeneas built his emergency fleet; then, at 4 A. M., Mitylene again and a wire to you announcing the conclusion of our work and the closing of the Mitylene station of the American Red Cross.

«Not the least valuable of all the results likely to be attained by the Red Cross work in these distant lands, is that it seems bound to start new currents flowing from springs that have been dry since the world began. At first the poor folks thought we were there for some sort

of political propaganda, but the fact that we went about our business and made no special effort to curry favor in any quarter, or any special effort to cover up displeasure when someone attempted to get help who was plainly not entitled to it, soon ended that idea. Then the idea went around that we were there for religious propaganda, but the number of priests who came to watch our work, and frequently to share in its benefits proved that was wrong. The upshot of it all will be, I both hope and believe, that many who have never learned the true meaning of the word «service» will have been started to thinking about others than themselves, and possibly started on a life of service.

«You may be interested in a description of the work of distribution on the island of Imbros.

«The representative of the Governor in Imbros has at last arrived, and we can begin the distribution at once. That hollow square of old tables, boxes, boards, and barrels with the cases of clothing and the sacks of flour and sugar placed well within is the temporary outdoor workroom where Misses Gilbert and Fudge and Mr. Capranos will put the articles named into the hands of those who are to use them. The building in the rear street with the crowd gathered about the door is where two French lads from the trawler and two Scotch boys from the nearby aviation camp and I will parcel out the flour, rice and beans. We will follow one of these refugees from the time she leaves the crowd empty-handed until she emerges from the door of the building in the rear, full-handed. Mr. Capranos has found her name on the list in good order and the local committee has certified that she is worthy of help. Her name is called and she enters the hollow square. The interpreter has handed a slip of paper to Miss Gilbert or Miss Fudge. It contains the name of each member of the family with the age and sex of each. From this data the proper garments are selected

and given. The sugar, about one pound per person, is carefully measured out by an assistant and placed in a bag brought along for the purpose. In the absence of the bag it may be carried away in the handkerchief, or apron, and not infrequently in the new socks which have just been received. Armed with the slip, which is her ticket of admission, she enters our building at the rear. She talks no French, the French boys talk no English, nor the English boys French, nor either of them any Greek; but very few words are necessary. The lads grab her empty sacks and hold them open before she knows what has happened to her. I read the slip, dish out the flour, and tell the others how many portions are due of rice and beans, and in less time than it takes to tell the story she is gently but quickly assisted out of the door and another has taken her place. Two hours of this, and I slip out to take a picture and order coffee. We drain the little thimble-like cups at a swallow and resume filling goat-skins, or camel-hair cloth bags with the first flour they have known in months.

«Such was the personal contact, with slight variation, in all our distribution. The ninety-nine were grateful—the one disappointed. On the whole the people of Imbros were less appreciative than any others we served, but there was not a single incident in all our work that marred in the least the cordial relations existing between the Red Cross and the Greek officials. Discouragements there were, of course, in dealing with so large a number of people, but on the whole I am convinced that none, even Americans, would have stood the terrific test, and come out of it with more to their credit than did these same Greek refugees from the coasts of Asia Minor living on the islands of the northeastern Aegean Sea.»



*Mrs. Hazlewood on Samos.**Extract from Report Dated May 15, 1919.*

«Lieutenant William Butler, accompanied by Miss Bunting, Miss Mingane and myself, left Piraeus on January 30th on board a U. S. Submarine Chaser. We landed at Vathy on the island of Samos the next day. It required only a few days to learn why the American Red Cross had sought out such a remote spot to bring relief. Ten thousand refugees from Asia Minor had fled from Turk-

*Refugee Women Bringing Firewood into Vathy.*

ish persecution in 1914, and had found shelter on this hospitable island. Although the sixty thousand inhabitants shared their scanty supplies with their stricken neighbors, after four years the stock was greatly depleted, and we found most deplorable conditions, not only among the refugees but also among the Samos poor.

«The conditions on the island had been investigated by Major Weld and Captain Dewing in December (see Major Weld's report), and a decision reached to establish a relief station there at the earliest possible moment, as soon as supplies and personnel should be available.

«Captain Dewing, Miss Anna H. McCoy, and Miss Hyatia Rodocanaki had landed two weeks prior to our arrival, secured quarters and a warehouse, and, finding the need of clothing most urgent, had established a workshop. Sixteen Red Cross machines were installed, and forty-four were brought by workers. Sixty-five women were employed, mostly refugees, and we were able to turn out from 200 to 325 garments each day—women's and children's dresses, undergarments, little boys' suits, shirts and undergarments for old men. Our hours were from 8:30 until 5:30, and a more enthusiastic group of workers could not be found. No work was too great for them, and each was paid according to the number of garments made and the quality of her work. The rivalry kept a sharp edge on the results.

«After establishing the station, Captain Dewing returned to Athens. The personnel of the station underwent change several times, until I was placed in charge on March 31st. After April 11th Miss Bunting and I managed the station alone. In the workshop Miss Bunting and I were materially assisted by the following faithful volunteers, who worked untiringly: Misses Helle and Maria Sotiriou, Erasmia Kapnias, Varth Bardisbanian, Miss Sinnefias, Mrs. Alexander Karida and Mrs. Vlasopoglou. On March 22nd we closed the workshop, after having made 8026 garments, at a cost for work of 8,147.10 drachmai. The sixteen Red Cross machines were given to fifteen of the most needy families in which there were small children, and one to the hospital.

«Before undertaking the work of distributing clothing, Miss Bunting and I made a thorough and careful survey, in which we were materially assisted by Dr. Emmanuel Iliadis and Mrs. Joseph Tjoskouvoglou, the latter a most remarkable woman. Having been forced to leave her home in Smyrna, in 1914, she went to Samos, and has devoted all her time since to working for the refugees

and the poor. She is a highly educated woman, and has always been accustomed to plenty of money and the best of everything. No work was too great or too difficult for her.

«Our survey trips were most interesting, but heart-rending. Many of these trips were taken on donkeys. We found refugees living in the foundations of ancient ruins, in one-room huts, and in caves. Many times eight and ten were huddled in one small room, their only food being a



*Interior of the Ouvroir; Vathy.*

few potatoes or native brown beans raised to feed donkeys. One day in a terrific storm I visited a family of eight children, their mother and grandmother, all living in a dark one-room hut. The rain was pouring through the roof, all eight children were sitting in a chimney, where they had built a fire with a few twigs, the mother and grandmother were huddled in a corner to keep dry. They had had nothing to eat for two days, and we hastened to give them immediate relief with canned beef, milk and jam. The next day we clothed them all with Red Cross garments, and assisted the mother in securing work. When

we left the island they were all getting along nicely, and were extremely happy and grateful.

«Most of the refugees whom we discovered in the mountains possessed but one abbreviated garment, and as the climate is moist and penetrating, the suffering from frosted hands and feet was severe.

«We found a terrible eye-trouble prevalent on the island, due to malnutrition, in many cases resulting in



*Refugee Women Breaking Stone; Vathy.*

total blindness. In one wretched hut we found a woman 32 years of age, totally blind and almost exhausted from lack of food; the only furniture in the hut was a box which served as a table when her two small daughters, seven and nine years of age, were successful on their begging trips. We outfitted the children and mother with Red Cross clothes, gave them soap to keep clean, and three times each week sent them canned beef, milk and jam. The health and appearance of this family improved almost immediately, and if good folks at home could see the gratitude of this one family, they would feel more than repaid for all their goodness. When we left the island we

left three cases of jam, two cases of milk and one of soap with one of our volunteers to be given to this family when they needed it most; we also left heavy clothing to be given them next fall. This is only one of many hundred similar cases.

«We gave the St. Panteleemon Hospital in Samos the following articles: Two cases absorbent cotton, one case medical supplies, four cases jam, four cases milk, four cases soap, nine cots, one sewing machine, ten dozen men's drawers, ten dozen men's socks; and the managing board were most grateful, as they have been under very heavy expense and have received very small appropriations. Daily we distributed milk to babies and old people and the sick, and I feel confident that «a can of milk» was never better placed than in the hands of these suffering people.

«Soap proved a great luxury; and we also carefully placed the following:

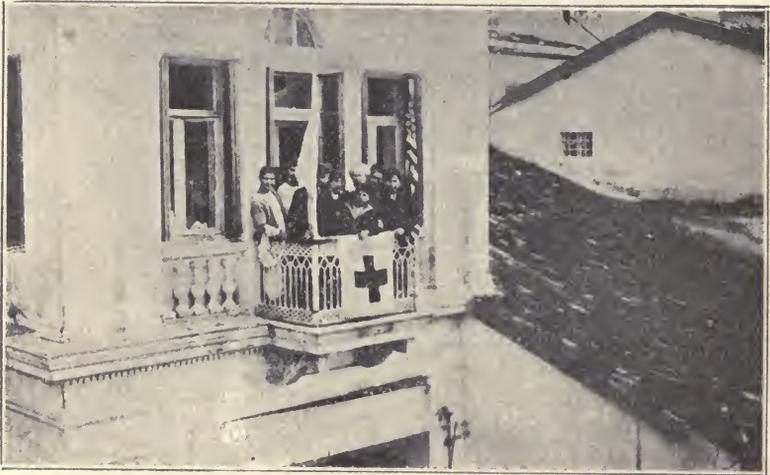
<i>Milk</i>	<i>Jam</i>	<i>Soap</i>	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Salmon</i>
80 cases	31 cases	49 cases	2 cases	2 cases

«In April we received 34 cases of garments from America, and words fail to express the joy and excitement when six of our volunteers assisted us in unpacking. Never was I more proud of our wonderful American women. As each box was opened and a package lifted from it bearing the name and number of a Red Cross chapter in America, we had to explain how our good women assembled to work for the refugees here, and how everyone in America, poor and rich, gave their share to make our work abroad a success. Many tiny petticoats and dresses had dainty but substantial touches of hand work, showing loving and patient thought. In many pockets were tucked hand-knit caps, handkerchiefs and paper dolls for these poor kiddies who never had a doll in their lives. We had the joy of first witnessing the delight of our volunteers and then

the satisfaction of seeing the garments well placed where they were most needed.

«The ten cases of men's shoes almost caused a riot. Leather is most expensive and difficult to secure, and everyone on the island needs shoes. We gave them, however, to blind men and men over 60 years of age.

«In one box we found 100 woolen shirts for men, of beautiful quality; these we gave to very old men, paralytics, the blind and consumptives.



*The Ouvroir at Vathy.*

«On May 5th the U.S.S.C. No. 128 arrived to assist in finishing the distribution. We packed eleven cases with carefully assorted garments, and on May 7th went in the Chaser to Carlovassi, where we took care of 820 refugees in three days. We left three-quarters of a case of absorbent cotton, two cases of jam, two of soap, and two of milk with the public pharmacy for the poor and the refugees. The other quarter of this case of cotton we gave to the refugee doctor in Vathy for the refugees. The gratitude in Carlovassi was profound, and we left the village

knowing that all the refugees were very happy and the officials much delighted.

«On Sunday, May 11th, we left Carlovassi at 7.30 for Ikaria, a small island four hours from Vathy, two hours from Carlovassi. Here we took care of one hundred and sixty-seven refugees, many of whom were very old. We had one old lady 109 years of age, and when we dressed her in Red Cross garments she was as proud as a peacock. Other men and women ranged from 75 to 100 years of age.



*A Group of Refugee Children; Samos.*

«The total number of refugees and poor served on the islands of Samos and Ikaria was 5425, and the number of garments given 11,704. In addition to this, we left garments for 205 of the most destitute poor with a committee of women who devote all their time to this work.

«We left Samos at 4 A.M. May 16th, thoroughly happy with the results accomplished, and confident that we left many thousands of newly-won friends for America and the American Red Cross.

«A full statistical report is appended».

(Signed) *Ethel G. Hazlewood*

## STATISTICAL REPORT OF SAMOS STATION

	Distribution	Vathy	Carlovassi	Mitylene	Isle of Icaria	Villages	Hospital
Milk, cases . . . . .	32	8	10	2	2	6	4
Jam, cases . . . . .	31	6	10	3	3	5	4
Salmon, cases . . . . .	2	2					
Corned beef, cases . . . . .	2	2					
Soap, cases . . . . .	49	12	10	2	3	8	4
Blankets . . . . .							
Cots . . . . .	12	2		1			9
Absorbent cotton . . . . .	2		<sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	<sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>		<sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	1
Sewing machines . . . . .	16	14		1			1
Men's shoes . . . . .	430	200	67	22	15	126	
Boys' suits . . . . .	514	199	82	30	51	152	
Men's drawers . . . . .	800	220	180	60	72	148	120
Men's cotton shirts . . . . .	80	15	24	12	18	11	
» under » . . . . .	100	36	24	12	12	16	
Women's chemises . . . . .	1883	430	840	160	185	268	
» jackets . . . . .	800	480	160	30	50	80	
Girls' drawers . . . . .	1830	750	135	160	235	450	
» petticoats . . . . .	966						
Children's capes . . . . .	465	145	100	40	60	120	
» dresses . . . . .	920	340	180	60	80	260	
Men's hosiery . . . . .	1200	360	220	108	192	200	120
Girl's chemises . . . . .	475	140	108	24	36	167	
Women's petticoats . . . . .	750	174	320	80	36	140	
Boys' undershirts . . . . .	280	84	72	36	48	40	
Women's dresses . . . . .	211	43	35	10	15	108	

Total number garments . . . . . 11,704 (\*)

Refugees served . . . . . 5,425

*Ouvroir*

Women employed . . . . . 65

Volunteer workers . . . . . 8

Daily production . . . . . 200 to 325 garments

Total number of garments made . . . . 8026

Total cost of labor . . . . . Drachmai 8147.10

(\*) These totals do not include the distributions made during February in Tigani, estimated as 1,000 garments given to about 600 people.

*Miss Harrison on Chios.**Extract from Report Dated May 12, 1919.*

« Captain H. B. Dewing, Miss Oleita H. Harrison, and Miss Helen C. McGinnell, arrived on the Island of Chios on January 6th, on the U. S. Submarine Chaser No. 82. We at once began inquiries looking to the opening of the American Red Cross activities on the island. The weather was cold and inclement; also, unfortunately, Governor Papandreou was ill with influenza. It seemed essential that living quarters for the personnel be found. This was indeed a difficult matter—on an island very much overcrowded, whose inhabitants were already caring for nearly their own number of refugees from Asia Minor. Dr. Rodokanakis, member of Parliament, and Mr. Pandezidis, the President of the Refugee Committee, and other kind friends on the island, were untiring in their efforts in our behalf, and at last we secured a very comfortable little apartment, untenanted, but furnished, commandeered for our use by Governor Papandreou. A most satisfactory warehouse and workroom were also placed at our disposal.

« After making these preliminary arrangements, Captain Dewing departed for Samos to organize the American Red Cross station there, leaving the Chios station temporarily in my charge, my duty being chiefly the establishment and operation of an *ouvroir* for the manufacture of clothing for the refugees. On January 15th the *ouvroir* was opened, using the 16 sewing machines and material brought on the U.S.C. 82. Its popularity was assured from the first day. Energetic and industrious women from among the refugees clamored at the door for employment. Each employee received two or three drachmai per day of seven hours. Of course, the 16 machines were soon in operation, and then we found that additional workers, in almost unlimited

numbers, wished to be employed, and were willing to bring sewing machines from their homes. These machines were usually borrowed, since the refugees had brought with them from Asia Minor little more than the clothing they wore on their backs. Soon 60 machines were busily humming, and this was the maximum number we were able to accommodate. In order to accelerate the output of the *ouvroir*, it was decided to discontinue sewing at the shop,



*Chios; at the Door of the Distributing Room.*

and to use the shop for cutting only, giving out the cut clothing to be made up into garments at home. This course was followed until all the available material had been exhausted. A total of over 12,000 garments was made. The home workers were paid by the piece at rates approximating the amount which they had earned in the shop for making like garments—from 40 to 60 lepta per piece. We also received a fairly large consignment of cut garments from Athens, which were soon made up and stored, ready for distribution. All the material used was of good, durable quality, usually dark in tone— which, by

the way, is very popular with the refugees, even for the little people.

«On January 20th Miss McGinnell was obliged to return to Athens, Dr. Harriet Clark having arrived the day before to take her place. On February 4th Lieutenant A. S. Bedell, accompanied by Miss M. A. Draper and Miss E. M. Fudge, arrived to take charge of the distribution of relief on the island. The personnel was again strengthened by the addition on February 17th of nurse Lena Johnson, while Miss Fudge was transferred to Mitylene on February 22nd. From this date until March 25th the work of the station was carried on, under Lieutenant Bedell's direction, by five persons, with such Greek assistants as it was found necessary to employ. On that date Lieutenant Bedell and Miss Johnson returned to Athens, leaving the station again in my charge.

«Lieutenant Bedell has reported to you independently on the operation of the station during his stay on the island, without, however, giving full statistics of distribution. In order to give a complete account of the work of relief done at Chios by the American Red Cross Mission to Greece from the beginning on January 6th until the closing of the station on May 1st, I am incorporating in this final report some statements drawn from Lieutenant Bedell's report, and I also add a statistical account of the amount and nature of the relief administered.

«The first two weeks after Lieutenant Bedell arrived were spent by him and his assistants in investigating the housing conditions and physical needs of the refugees. This work was greatly hampered by the continued inclement weather, but enough data were collected to form a basis for our future work. On February 16th, Major Weld, accompanied by Major Walker, made a visit of inspection to the island, and spent two days with us. Arrangements were then made, after personal inspection, for attending

to the needs of charitable institutions by means of donations of food, clothing and medical supplies. Since that time other institutions have been investigated by the personnel in charge of the station, and substantial gifts given to those institutions which seemed most deserving.

«As a result of the preliminary investigation of the condition of the refugees on the island, it was determined to distribute relief by geographic districts or zones. In view of the short time available for the actual work of



*Chios; Interior of Distributing Room.*

distribution, it was impossible to investigate the needs of each individual family, there being some five thousand families of refugees on the island, comprising about 20,000 persons. The investigation made revealed the fact that in certain sections of the city of Chios and in certain villages on the island conditions were more or less uniform; the distribution of clothing was accordingly regulated by this fact and cards given out section by section. The distribution of food, with the exception of milk, was uniform throughout. The first distribution was made by means of the U. S. Submarine Chaser No. 217 to two isolated vill-

ages, Oinoussai, situated on a small island northeast of the island of Chios, and Kardamila, a northern seaport town of Chios. The members of the crew of the chaser rendered great assistance in this distribution.

«After a trip of investigation to the southern villages and another to one northern section, it was at last decided to establish the distributing centers at Vrondado (a few miles north of the city), Vollissos (20 miles northwest of the city over the mountains), and Kalamoti (to the southwest); owing, however, to difficulties of transport, no chaser being at this time available, and to the willingness of the refugees to come to the city for the distribution of relief, this plan was abandoned after a conference with the representatives of the refugees, and all the distribution was made from the warehouse in the city. The plan worked out very smoothly and distribution proceeded with considerable rapidity. Frequently from 800 to 900 families, or some 3,000 persons, received rations of food in one day; and one day was always sufficient to allow us to distribute both food and clothing to between six and seven hundred families. Following this plan, up to March 25th 2060 families (7,100 persons) had been clothed and fed, 1060 families (4,000 persons) had received food and a fair supply of underwear for women and girls; and 850 families (3,500 persons) had received food only.

«Beginning with February 25th, the milk station has given out 125 tins of milk daily by means of milk cards, which were issued to persons who, in the opinion of the Red Cross physician, needed this addition to their diet. The dispensary, conducted by Dr. Harriet Clark, has averaged 60 to 70 cases a day since it was opened on February 26th. The dispensary was closed on March 31st.

«One feature of the distribution was a demonstration by Miss Johnson of the use of a layette. Thirty-nine expectant mothers were brought together and a young baby

was bathed and clothed to the accompaniment of comments by nurse Johnson. The women were then given each a layette.

«Only one or two attempts were detected to «repeat» at the distribution, but the system used made this absolutely impossible. Cards had been made out from the register at the refugee bureau, one for each family, giving their identification number, name and address, and the



*The Dispensary at Chios. A Demonstration.*

composition of the family by age and sex. A definite number of these prepared cards were sent daily to the bureau for distribution to the refugees through their representatives, with instructions to appear at the warehouse on certain days. The bearer of the card was identified at the warehouse by his refugee booklet, which contained his photograph and number. The card was kept at the desk, and a card indicating rations and clothing to be issued was given and the order filled immediately. These «ration cards» enabled the workers to determine at night the exact number of families and persons served, and each kind of clothing issued. After the first few days the system

was somewhat complicated by people coming several days late. This was overcome by using ration cards of different colors. Where the refugee cards had to be issued a second or third time (some having received only partial rations at first), or when they were issued for certain sections of the island, the corners of the cards were cut by the printer in distinctive ways, thus making the identification a very simple matter.

«On April 22nd, 53 cases of goods reached Chios. These contained underwear, hose, shoes, and a goodly supply of serge dresses for girls and suits for boys, as well as warm and practical capes for girls. Cards were immediately issued to 1,850 families of refugees in the town of Chios, who had theretofore shared in the distribution of food but not of clothing, to 300 families recommended by a local committee for the poor, and to 700 families of soldiers. From 300 to 600 families, on presentation of a certified photograph of each family, received clothing each day throughout the distribution, and an effort was made to give at least one suitable article of clothing to each member of each family.

«To the Skilitzis Hospital and Orphanage a case of men's pajamas, a box of absorbent cotton, and a case of assorted boys' and girls' clothing were sent. The Military Hospital received a case of men's pajamas. Having a generous remainder of girls' dresses and capes, we sent a box containing about 40 dresses and 65 capes to the Baroness de l'Ormais, wife of the French Consul, for distribution in a local charitable French school for poor girls.

«Pursuant to Lieutenant Bedell's promise to Governor Papandreou, we left a fair supply of clothing, as well as food, in the warehouse for distribution through a very worthy charity for the poor, which the Governor directs. We also left a large number of empty wooden cases, the sale of which will yield a goodly sum, since lumber is

extremely high in Chios. The Governor was deeply appreciative of this gift, and he and many other distinguished Greeks on the island were earnest in their expression of gratitude for the generosity of the American people to the refugees and poor of Chios.

«A complete statistical showing of the various forms of relief administered during the existence of this station is herewith appended.»

(Signed) *Oleita H. Harrison*

STATISTICAL REPORT OF CHIOS STATION

	Milk-cases	Sugar-bags	Beans-bags	Flour-bags	Rice-bags	Raisins bags	Jam-cases	Soap-cases	Garments	Shoes	Socks	Blankets	Beds	Sewing Machines	Absorbent Cotton	Families aided	No. persons aided
Island of Chios . . .	350	196	200	491	200	8	15	28	25666	288	2654	871	18	15	8	6325	22512

INSTITUTIONS AND CHARITIES AIDED (FIGURES INCLUDED ABOVE)

2 Hospitals . . .	35		15	75	20	8	14	15				500	18		6		
2 Soup Kitchens.				90	40												
2 Charities . . . . .	52	49	27	47	36		1	13		70		75					2

MEDICAL REPORT DISPENSARY AT CHIOS, Dr. Clark in charge.

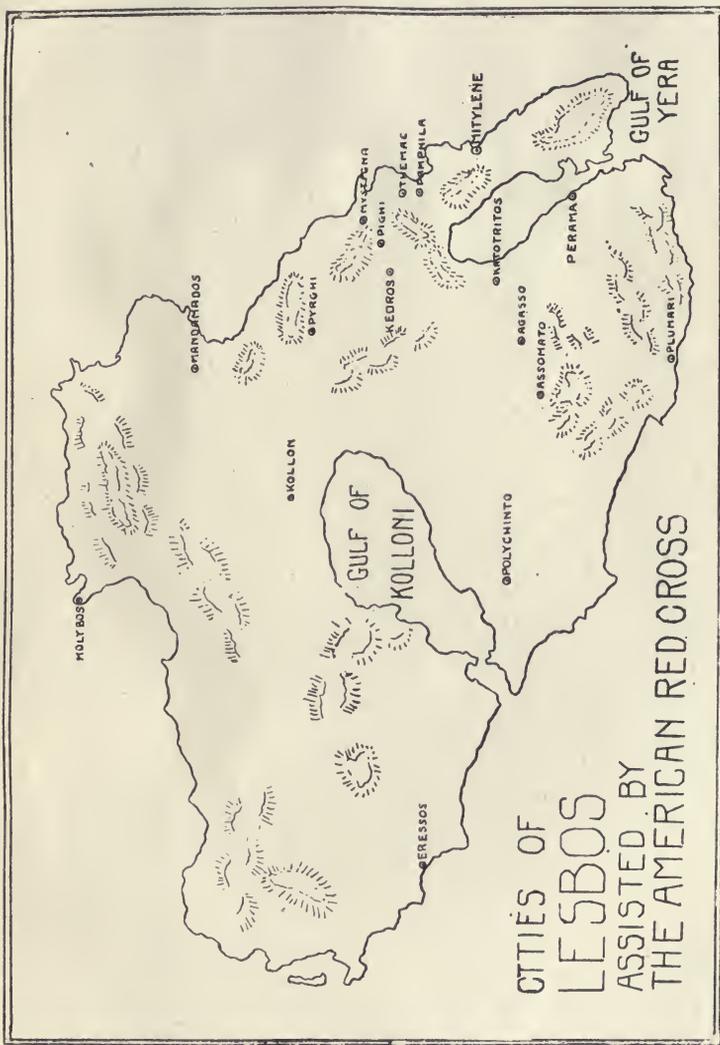
Opened on Feb. 26.

March 1919	No. of Patients	Stomach Trouble	Malnutrition	Rheumatism	Nephritis	Surgical dressings	Hemorrhoids	Gynecological Cases	Neuralgia & Neuritis	Respiratory	Anemia	Ear	Eye	Nose	Throat	Malaria	Insomnia	Ascariades	Goitre	Tubercular Glands	Heart	Skin
1	29	9	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2		2	3		2	1				1		1
3	64	15	4	3	1	3		2	2	12	5	1	4		1	3	1	1		2	1	3
4	61	8	4	3		4		4	4	12	6	2	4	1		4			1	1	5	2
5	78	13	12	3		1		7	7	14	7	3	5		1	2		2		4	2	4
6	82	17	10	2		3	1	1	5	25	5		4			7				1	1	
7	75	16	10	5	1	3	1		6	19	4		4			5						1
10	70	17	9	2		7		5	5	13	13		3			1				3		2
11	73	25	4	3		3		1		12	11		5		1	2						2
12	35	6	7	1		2		1	4	8	4		2									2

Milk distributed by medical supervision to 125 people daily.







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