

**Guide to the
Assorted Documents from the United Nations Relief and
Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Anna Baldassarre '14
June 5, 2014**

MS-164: Assorted Documents from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)

(1 box, 1 cubic foot)

Inclusive Dates: 1943 – 2005

Bulk Dates: 1945 – 1946, 1948

*Processed by: Anna Baldassarre '14
June 2014*

Provenance

Donated in 2014 by Don Brett.

Historical Notes

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was created in 1943 by 44 member nations with the goal of providing economic and repatriation assistance to those people displaced from their homes by Axis occupation during WWII. UNRRA was staffed by 12,000 civil servants who worked closely with many smaller volunteer organizations, ultimately providing \$4 billion dollars worth of food, medicine, clothing, tools, and other goods to the displaced persons of Europe and China as well as repatriating 7 million people. UNRRA concluded its involvements in Europe in 1947 and China in 1949, and its remaining obligations were distributed among other UN agencies, including the International Refugee Organization (IRO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Scope and Content Notes

This is an artificial collection consisting of various documents, letters, and booklets. It also includes textiles (UNRRA and IRO uniform badges) and a printed photo album (of Dachau concentration camp). These items offer a broad yet fleeting glance at the entire operation of UNRRA, ranging from upper-level administration (largely American, Canadian, or British) to displaced persons in Europe.

Several of the publications intended for use by overseas staff and displaced persons were printed in multiple languages including English, French, German, and Dutch. This collection includes several instruction manuals for UNRRA staff members as well as references to both the beginning and end of the administration.

The papers from relief workers Hilda Mendel (Fermo, Italy) and Alice Dodge Simpson (Germany) constitute the bulk of Series 2: Staff. Mendel's papers are mostly personal letters and reports, relaying information about her personal experiences working in the

DP camp. Simpson's documents include transport orders, ration cards, and notices of her entrance into UNRRA and resignation from the program, offering a look at the official portion of her duties. Roy S. Tucker's *Tractors and Chopsticks* is the only personal account of a staff member stationed in China.

Series 3: Relief Efforts demonstrates the instrumental role North America's civilian population played in aiding UNRRA's efforts. One of the strongest sections of the collection, this series includes multiple newsletters and memos from programs in New York and Ottawa, Canada, dedicated to collecting food and clothing to send overseas.

The collection contains few firsthand items in Series 4: Displaced Persons but does include Mark Wyman's book *DPs Europe's Displaced Persons, 1945-1951*.

Series Description

This collection is divided into four series:

1. *Administration* (pamphlets, booklets, memos, press releases, and other documents)
2. *Staff* (letters, notes, and documents relating to a specific staff member)
3. *Relief Efforts* (pamphlets, newsletters, memos, and press releases about food and clothing collection in North America)
4. *Displaced Persons* (information about displaced persons in Europe)

Series 1 and 3 are organized chronologically when available, and Series 2 and 4 are arranged alphabetically by last name of the individual and then chronologically.

Series 1: Administration

- 1-1 TIME magazine page with heading "U.S. At War"—includes photo of UNRRA delegates: November 22, 1943
- 1-2 Letters to Herbert Lehman, Executive Director of UNRRA, regarding the creation of UNRRA: November 26, 1943 and December 7, 1943
- 1-3 Pamphlet explaining UNRRA: 1944
- 1-4 UNRRA "Organization, Aims, Progress" booklet: 1944
- 1-5 Agreement to Regularize the Relations Between the UNRRA and the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, During the Military Period: November 25, 1944
- 1-6 UNRRA "Welfare Guide" booklet regarding Services to UN Nationals Displaced in Germany: February 1945
- 1-7 Letters to UN members regarding UN policies: March 2, 1945
- 1-8 UNRRA Training Center Booklet and College Park, MD map: May 1945
- 1-9 UNRRA "Team News" booklets October 1945 (partial) and February 15, 1945
- 1-10 Camp Kufstein newsletter: October 13, 1945

- 1-11 Memo regarding schooling for Hungarian officer cadets: November 29, 1945
- 1-12 "Personnel Field Regulations" booklet: March 14, 1946
- 1-13 UN Economic and Social Council recommendation for the creation of IRO: June 20, 1945
- 1-14 Memo regarding NAAFI and PX supplies: circa summer 1946
- 1-15 "Weekly Information Bulletin" from the Office of Military Government for Germany, U.S.: September 23, 1946
- 1-16 Press release regarding UN acceptance of IRO constitution: December 9, 1946
- 1-17 Map of 1,048,250 displaced persons in Europe: 1946 (located in oversize box)
- 1-18 Press release regarding UNRRA funding and program closure: March 12, 1947
- 1-19 "Operation Analysis Papers, No. 53 of the UNRRA in China 1945-1947": April 1948
- 1-20 UN report regarding the end of UNRRA
- 1-21 UNRRA "Information About Service Overseas" pamphlet
- 1-22 "A Relief Worker's Vocabulary" booklet
- 1-23 UNRRA and IRO uniform patches
- 1-24 UNRRA luggage tag
- 1-25 Dachau concentration camp photo album
- 1-26 Reproduction of photo of the hanging of Dr. Klaus Karl Schilling
- 1-27 UNRRA organization charts
- 1-28 UNRRA maps
- 1-29 List of UNRRA offices

Series 2: Staff

- 2-1 Appointment of Berna A.M. Holt to Assistant Welfare Officer of German Operations Displaced Persons: June 15, 1945
- 2-2 Travel slip for Hilda Mendel: April 26, 1948
- 2-3 Correspondence between Hilda Mendel and Administration Bureau HQ, Rome regarding rations: May 10, 1948 and June 22, 1948
- 2-4 Reports from Hilda Mendel to the Education and Workshop Department: June-July 1948
- 2-5 Correspondence between Hilda Mendel and Administration Bureau HQ, Rome regarding theft of money: June 24, 1948 and August 3, 1948
- 2-6 Letter from Hilda Mendel to Mr. Kramer: June 28, 1948
- 2-7 Letter to Hilda Mendel regarding the Fermo, Italy DP camp (original, photocopy, and translation): August 20, 1948
- 2-8 Correspondence from Hilda Mendel to Mr. Levy regarding salary: February 24, 1949
- 2-9 Letters to Hilda Mendel from the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad: March 18, 1949
- 2-10 Letter from Jack Metcoff regarding his experience at Yugoslav Refugee Camps, BNAP: November 4, 1944
- 2-11 Alice Dodge Simpson Military Entry Permit to Germany: July 13, 1945

- 2-12 Ration cards and inventory for Alice Dodge Simpson: July and October 1945
- 2-13 Transport orders for Alice Dodge Simpson: August 20, 1945-January 8, 1946
- 2-14 Note to Colonel D. Jackling referencing Alice Dodge Simpson: September 3, 1945
- 2-15 Documents regarding Alice Dodge Simpson's resignation from UNRRA: May 9, 1946 and May 28, 1946
- 2-16 Roy S. Tucker. *Tractors and Chopsticks My Work with the UNRRA Project in China, 1946-1947*. New York: iUniverse, Inc. 2005.
- 2-17 Letter with envelope inviting Colonel Von Spach to the officers' mess at Kozani: April 2, 1945
- 2-18 List of names and addresses (Italy)
- 2-19 "Who's Who" list of UNRRA staff: June 1, 1945

Series 3: Relief Efforts

- 3-1 Memos announcing the Community Canning Program for War Relief: July 31, 1945-August 14, 1945
- 3-2 Correspondence from the National Clothing Collection (Canada) to the United National Clothing Collection (United States): August 31, 1945 and September 21, 1945
- 3-3 The United National Clothing Collection, Inc. "News for Chairmen" issues 6 (two copies, January 5, 1946), 7 (January 8, 1946), and 8 (January 12, 1946)
- 3-4 Statement by UNRRA Public Information Division announcing food distribution plan for Italy: January 7, 1946
- 3-5 Memo from United National Clothing Collection, Inc. regarding President Truman's support for the program: January 8, 1946
- 3-6 United National Clothing Collection "News for Regional Directors" regarding state chairmen: January 10, 1946
- 3-7 Notes regarding American Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace's support for emergency supply drives: April 26, 1946 and May 3, 1946
- 3-8 Emergency Food Collection "Important Information for Chairmen" bulletins 1 (May 1, 1946) and 2 (May 7, 1946)
- 3-9 Memo about "The Philadelphia Plan" from the Emergency Food Collection Philadelphia Committee: May 3, 1946
- 3-10 Letter to American Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace regarding a national food drive: May 9, 1946
- 3-11 Emergency Food Collection "Importance Notice to Chairmen" regarding completing food collections and cash contributions: June 1, 1946
- 3-12 "If You Care—You Will Share!" card from Indianapolis, IN Week of Compassion (February 16-23, year unknown)
- 3-13 Victory Food Collection for Overseas Relief "Information Bulletin A" from the Community Canning Program for War Relief
- 3-14 Publicity release from Victory Clothing Collection regarding national clothing collection: January (year unknown)
- 3-15 Shipping Instructions for Emergency Collection of Clothing for Europe

Series 4: Displaced Persons

- 4-1 PWX/DP Registration/Identity card for Voldemar Maripuu: May 2, 1947
- 4-2 Biography of the Slepian family: 1910-1949
- 4-3 Reproduction of certificate of appreciation to UNRRA for erecting a Polish cemetery in Wiesendorf-Wasseralfingen: November 10, 1945
- 4-4 Mark Wyman. *DPs Europe's Displaced Persons, 1945-1951*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 1989.
- 4-5 Displaced persons field postcard

Additional Items

Assorted internet articles printed and provided by donor

Removed from Collection

Hulme, Kathryn. *The Wild Place*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company. 1953.
Relocated to Musselman Library book collection D809.G3 H8 1953