

25/1942

Country - North Africa

12/21/1942
191
dupes

American Friends Service Committee

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING WORK IN NORTH AFRICA

The American Friends Service Committee has maintained a relief and refugee service in Casablanca, Morocco since September, 1942. Mr. Leslie O. Heath, the representative of the Committee in Casablanca has recently cabled that a lengthy report, dated November 25, has been mailed to the Philadelphia office. This report is presumably a detailed picture of the civilian and refugee needs at the present time.

Pending the arrival of this report, we should like to indicate in a general way some of the needs in Casablanca which our Committee has attempted to meet.

Refugee Population

The foreign refugee population in Morocco and Algeria is estimated at 25,000 of whom some 16,000 are Spanish. Approximately 5,000 of the total refugee population have either been in internment camps or work companies under extremely difficult conditions. The most recent list of these camps from which internees are probably now being released is as follows:

Morocco:	Berguent - 400
	Mengoub - 400 (Highway construction)
	Bou-Arfa - 200 (Only skeleton staff left)
	Ain-el-Ourak 150 (Disciplinary camp)
	Infount - 500 (Dam construction)
	Qued Akresch 200 (sick)
	Sidi-el-Ayashi 450 (Immigrants' Camp)

Algeria: Saida	400	(Railroad construction)
Colomb-Bechar	400	
Kenadza	400	(Coal mines)
Depot No. 5 near		
Colomb-Bechar	200	(Polish refugees only)
Hadjarat M ^o Guil	200	(Prison camp)
Djelfa	600	(Fighters from Spain)

Many of the individuals leaving camps will need emergency assistance in food and clothing. Some will require medical attention. In addition to these emergency services in which both private and public relief agencies will undoubtedly cooperate, there will be the important rehabilitation services of helping the refugees to reestablish themselves in civilian life.

Civilian Needs

Mr. Heath cabled the Committee on November 25 as follows:

CIVILIAN RELIEF NECESSITATED
BY WAR RECEIVING OUR ATTENTION IN ADDITION
TO CAMPS

Previously, his reports had stressed the lack of consumer goods such as medicines, soap, and clothing. These shortages have apparently become increasingly acute, and in the present period of transition emergency services are needed.

MF/ds
12/21/42