

1. SV SIR ARTHUR SPEAKING:

I have just been talking to many friends who have come back from different parts of Europe. The scenes you've been looking at show what's been happening and what is going to happen on a tragic scale as the winter comes on. [The women and children you are now seeing are Germans. They remind us of the other side of the United Nations' task. War criminals <sup>of course</sup> must be punished. Germany must be made incapable of starting another war and the countries she attacked must have preferential treatment. <sup>this</sup> but that does not mean that German women and children must be left to starve.] The Allied forces which are now in control of Germany must do all that is humanly possible to prevent it. Not to do so would be to imitate the Nazis and ~~that~~ be untrue to all our own traditions. Europe as a whole can never recover if there is a festering sore at its centre. Famine brings pestilence and pestilence ~~will not~~ stop at frontiers or at the English channel.

2. SCU

[The Allied forces which are now in control of Germany <sup>have</sup> had to do all that is humanly possible to prevent famine. If they did not they would be imitating the Nazis and be untrue to all our own traditions. Europe as a whole can never recover if there is a festering sore at ~~its~~ <sup>its</sup> centre. Famine brings pestilence and pestilence will not stop at frontiers or at the English channel.]

VBK

Brit Tps BERLIN

MGBTB/ 20187

I. C. U. (6)

Operation STORK.

1. Attached please find a statement which can be used as a basis for the publicity campaign in connection with the above operation.
2. No mention has been made of the initial date. It is not yet certain that the scheme will be in operation by 24 Oct, 45, the last agreed date. You will be kept advised on this point.

*Logan*

*Put off till 26th*

Lt-Col  
ADMG (Exec)

Tele extension 5713  
17 Oct 45  
EDB/Qu

Time of signature 1030 B hrs

Copy to:

List B & C  
plus Serials 13, 15, 17-19,  
22-30, 37-39,  
41, 47.

Evacuation of BERLIN School Children.

1. A scheme known as operation 'STORK' will come into operation in the Brit sector of BERLIN within the next few days.
2. Operation 'STORK' is the codename for the evacuation, on a voluntary basis, of 50,000 children aged between 4 and 14 years from the British sector of BERLIN to the British Zone of GERMANY at the rate of 2,000 per day, in total.
3. The children will be accompanied by adults on a scale of one adult to five children i.e. a total of 10,000 adults to 50,000 children. The adults will include teachers, school welfare officers, priests and nuns and there is no objection to mothers of children aged four to five years being included. Pregnant mothers with children between four and five years can also be included.
4. The object of the scheme is to provide the children with healthier surroundings, better food and better accommodation to that in BERLIN and to give them a better chance to overcome the rigours of the coming winter.
5. The scheme is one requiring much careful and detailed planning and is being given the same attention as that given to any operation of war. The detailed organisation will be the responsibility of the German authorities but all planning and staff work is being performed by the British Authorities.
6. In the preparation of the scheme every attempt has been made to foresee the questions which German parents will ask so that they may be clear on the commitment. Such questions will include their destination (OLDENBURG, AURICH, OSNABRÜCK), the arrangements for the journey, the accommodation in the reception area, clothing required, welfare organisation, communication facilities, religious schooling and many others.

As many answers as it is at present possible to provide are given at Appx 'A'.

7. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that it is most desirable that German parents should make the maximum use of this scheme for the sake of their children and also to reduce the magnitude of the problem in BERLIN this coming winter.
8. Considerable importance is being attached by the British Authorities to this evacuation. There is little difference between the necessity for evacuation from large centres of population due to the danger of bombing (as was done in LONDON and other British cities) and that due to the

other dangers to the life of young children caused by the aftermath of war. In both cases the incentive is humanitarian in its nature, to save unnecessary physical suffering and misery and to save young lives. For this reason it may later be necessary, if sufficient volunteers are not available to make the scheme compulsory.

Appx 'A'

to MGBTB/20187

dated 17 Oct 45

Questionnaire and Answers  
relating to  
Operation 'STORK'.

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

1. What is the object of evacuating the children? To give them healthier surroundings, better food and better accomodation. To give them, in fact, a better chance to live a healthy life, particularly during the coming winter.
2. For how long will they be away from Berlin? Until conditions have improved in Berlin. They will be away for the whole of the coming winter, at minimum.

JOURNEY

3. How will they travel? By bus in Brit escorted convoys to Alversdorf on the frontier of the British and Russian Zones. After a night in the Transit Camp at Alversdorf they will travel by train to the reception area.
4. How long will it take? From 2 to 2 1/2 days, according to the destination.
5. Who will look after them? The adults from Berlin who will remain with them in the reception areas.
6. What feeding arrangements are there? They will leave Berlin with 1/2 day ration. Meals at Alversdorf. They will carry 2 days rations on the train, and, in addition, there will be 1 meal halt on the train journey.
7. What scale of adults will go with them? 1 to 5 children.
8. Will they have blankets provided for them during the night at Alversdorf? No. They must carry blankets etc. with them.

/9. How ...

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

9. How much kit and clothing may be taken?
10. What medical arrangements are there on the journey?

They should take as much as possible. There will be no opportunities to augment their clothing etc. in the reception areas.

Trained German social welfare workers will travel with them all the way. On the trains, there will be teams of German medical personnel. On arrival in reception areas they will be met by teams of German nurses. Any children who arrive ill will be put straight into specially arranged schools where hospital personnel will look after them until they are fit again.

ACCOMODATION.

11. Where are they going to?
12. What will they live in, and with whom?
13. Who will be responsible for them and look after them?
14. What food will they get?
15. What medical facilities will there be?

Oldenburg, Aurich, Osnabrück.

They will be billeted in specially chosen private homes, where there is room for them and where the owners are capable of looking after them. All the reception areas are Landkreise except for the Stadtkreis of Oldenburg.

They will be the responsibility of the Jugendämter, under whom will work the re-organised German Red Cross, and the Welfare organisations, Caritas Verband and Innere Mission. Medical and welfare inspections will be made periodically.

The same as the other children in the British Zone where the ration scales will be met throughout the winter. As regards Milk; it is pointed out that the reception areas are amongst the richest dairy regions in the British Zone, and have been chosen for that purpose.

The same as for the other children in the reception areas; and, in addition, there will be the teams of German nurses to meet them on their arrival.

/16. What ...

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

16. What heating will there be?

There will be no coal. But as the children will be in country areas, there should be no shortage of wood.

17. Deleted.

CLOTHING

18. Will it be possible to obtain new clothes or replacements in the reception area?

No. For this reason, they must take with them all that they can. In very exceptional cases, if a child arrives short of clothes, it might be possible to provide it with some - but this cannot be guaranteed.

WELFARE

19. What welfare organisations will there be?

The Jugendämter will be responsible for all welfare facilities and organisations. Under them will work the German Red Cross, Caritas Verband, Innere Mission.

SCHOOLING

20. What educational facilities will there be?

They will receive the same schooling as the local children. It is hoped that the children from 8 to 14 years of age will receive about 2 hours a day.

21. Who will teach them?

They will be taught by local teachers and by the Berlin teachers who will be travelling down with them.

COMMUNICATIONS

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

COMMUNICATIONS

22. What postal facilities will there be?

One postcard will be sent to each parent as soon as each child arrives in the reception area.

It will be possible for the parents to write a postcard to the children and for the children to write to the parents once a month.

23. What possibilities will there be for parents to visit children?

None. for some time.

24. Will official representatives of the Berlin authorities be allowed to visit the children?

Yes. One representative per month. One representative will also be allowed to travel down with the first convoy of children evacuated.

25. If a child is taken ill, will it be possible for the parent to be notified immediately?

If a child is dangerously ill, the parent will be informed.

RELIGION

26. Will Roman Catholics be placed in Protestant homes, and vice versa?

As far as possible, children will be sent out of Berlin in religious groups. Each group will then be sent to a reception area where its particular faith is in the majority. The local German authorities will be instructed to billet children in families of similar faith; and it is possible that re-adjustments, where necessary, will be made after the whole evacuation has been completed.

27. What facilities for religious teaching will there be?

The same as for local children. A certain number of priests and nuns will be travelling down with the children; but it is emphasized that there is a shortage of priests in the reception areas, particularly Roman Catholic.



QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

MISCELLANEOUS.

28. Will families, schools and districts from Berlin, be kept together in the reception areas? So far as possible, children will be evacuated by families, schools and districts. Each convoy will arrive in the reception area in very much the same form as it leaves Berlin, so that the group will remain together. Minor adjustments may have to be made, however during the journey.
29. Will it be possible to move children in the homes of families known by their parents? It is possible that small re-adjustments will be made after the completion of the whole evacuation scheme. But such re-adjustments will not be to areas outside Oldenburg, Aurich and Osnabruck.
30. What financial commitments will there be for the parents of children evacuated? Will they have to pay billeting allowance, for instance?
31. What guarantee is there that children will not be forced to work long hours on farms on which they may be billeted? The local German authorities will be ordered to forbid this. The Berlin official representatives, who will be paying monthly visits will be able to check on this.
32. Will work be found for those mothers evacuated, who have been earning their living in Berlin? Work cannot be guaranteed for them.
33. Will there be any payment for teachers who are evacuated with the children? They will be paid by the local authorities in the normal way.
34. Is 50,000 children to be the limit of the evacuation? Yes
35. If 50,000 are not obtained voluntarily, will the evacuation scheme be made compulsory? Yes

PREVIOUS EVACUATIONS

36. What steps are being taken to establish communication with children previously evacuated over the past few years? All local authorities in the British Zone are being ordered to compile a list of children evacuated from Berlin. These lists will be forwarded to the Berlin authorities as soon as compiled.