Did you know there is enough yarn in an old baseball to knit a sock? Have you ever seen table mats, shopping bags and pillow covers made from commissary gunny sacks, or dresses made from flour sacks? Have you ever worn a pair of hand-sewn gloves made from the leather of a pair of salvage boxing gloves?

For more than two years, hundreds of German girls throughout the American zone and Berlin have been making beautiful and useful articles from these seemingly useless, scraps, and soon they will test this skill in a GYA Girls Handicraft Contest.

German girls from each US Army post and subpost throughout the US Zone and Berlin will submit their articles for competition on a post level from May 15 to 30. Between June 15 and 30 the post prize winners in 16 classes will be sent to EUCOM Headquarters to determine the first, second, and third prize winners for the entire zone. Mrs. Clarence R. Huebner is sponsor of the contest on the European Command level.

Girls from the ages of 10 to 25 may enter the contest and will compete against their own age groups. Articles may be made of used material or they may be made of new material. They may be knitted, sewed or embroidered. Clay modeling, plastics, oil painting and water colors, metal work, or leather tooling—all of these crafts may be entered in certain classes.

The zone-wide GYA handicraft contest was suggested at the GYA training conference at Heidelberg last September as a way to provide new interests for German girls who, during Hitler's time, may have been even more susceptible to Nazi propaganda than were German boys. Uncertain as they are about their personal future as mothers and homemakers, German girls today need badly a varied program of interesting and democratic activities.

The GYA Handicraft contest is also open to girls who do not belong to GYA groups. Schools and licensed groups, who do not need to use the buildings and facilities made available by the Armed Forces for German youth, may also participate in the contest. Individuals or groups wishing to enter the competition may secure the rules and classes of entries by applying at the nearest GYA office. Many school handicraft groups throughout the zone have already signed up to compete.

Enthusiasm among German girls participating in the contest is running high. In Berlin, the attendance at the girl's handicraft classes has doubled, and in some places has already tripled since the contest was announced. At the Tempelhof center a girls' handicraft class has been organized where formerly there was only a boys' program.

In Bremerhaven all the schools are represented in the contest.

Miss Elizabeth Myer (left center), a colonel's daughter in Berlin, assists the girls of her GYA group in the Blockaded city in making articles. (US Army)

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