Relief by Parcel Post

Mail bags filled with US gift parcels arrive at Bremen.

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The greatest voluntary personal relief activity in the history of the world, from the people of one country to the people of another, is being carried on by the American people to their friends and relatives in Germany by sending gift parcels through postal channels. The extent of this spontaneous relief can be determined only from postal reports.

Since this little publicized postal service was opened in June 1946, Germans have received from the American people more than 39,000,000 gift parcels containing 256,000 tons of food, clothing and similar items for relief of human suffering. The contents of these parcels and their postage represent contributions by the American senders totaling some $325,000,000.

In spite of the conditions which existed in Germany, the deprivations of gift parcels in the German Federal Republic have been extremely low. Less than one package in 10,000 has been pillaged or lost — giving the German Post Office an impressive record.

Through the ECA program, the postage for gift parcels mailed in the United States to the German Federal Republic and the Western Sectors of Berlin has been reduced from 14 to six cents a pound. These parcels now have an average weight of 18 pounds. It is cheaper to mail such a parcel from any place in the United States to Germany than from New York to Miami, Fla.

More than 65 percent of the gift parcels are delivered by the Deutsche Post to addresses in Germany within 30 days after mailing in the United States. Eighty-five percent are delivered within 35 days.

The voluntary sending by individual Americans of these gift parcels is another of their contributions toward the democratization and establishment of a peace-loving Germany.

END
Checking addresses, weights.

Rewrapping damaged packages.

(All photos furnished by Deutsche Post)

US Gift Relief Parcels to Germany

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>1946</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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Totals (June 1946—Dec. 1949):
Contributed by American Senders .... $325,000,000
Parcels ................................ 39,000 JD
Weight of Contents in Lbs. ......... 514,000,000 (257,000 tons)

Signing Post Office receipt.

Parcel from US is delivered.