

# Red Cross Help for Needy

a reluctance to get anything done. Repeated efforts failed to stimulate them to undertake an effective program, so it became apparent that MG would have to intervene directly. The Land governments had failed to come forward with adequate legislation, and there were indications that the Big Banks might succeed in preserving their unity.

MG Law 57, a strong directive designed to break up the dominating influence of the Big Banks, was enacted in May 1947. It provides that independent and disinterested custodians be provided for these banks, who will manage and administer the property of the banks in the US Zone; it requires that the names of the banks be changed so that they will be different in each Land; and breaks up giro systems of the banks. Successfully implemented, this law can decentralize the branch bank systems, in a democratically-organized German economy.

Certain top officials of the Dresdner Bank are facing indictment and trial at Nuremberg for War Crimes. Their indictment will, in effect, be a token indictment of the entire system by which the Big Banks worked hand in hand with the Nazi government to aggrandize a small and selected element of chosen "Aryan" Germans in Europe at the cost of the vast majority of conquered peoples.

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## FIAT Discontinued

Effective 1 July, the 7748 Field Information Agency, Technical, is discontinued, in accordance with EUCOM letter, AG 322 GCT-AGO of 4 June 1947. The reassignment of personnel and the disposal of equipment are provided in OMGUS General Orders No. 54 of 23 June 1947.

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## Rail Traffic Increases

The number of railroad tickets sold to American personnel for US Military Payment Certificates by German travel bureau offices shows increase each week. These offices are operating in most US Zone cities.

**A**GREEMENT between OMGUS and the League of Red Cross Societies will permit importation of Red Cross relief supplies into the US Zone for needy Germans, it was announced by William E. Grainger, League representative in the US Zone, and the Public Welfare Branch, IA&C Division.

The agreement, which has been approved by the Military Governor in Berlin and League officials in Geneva, became operational 14 June. League officials estimate that supplies will start coming into Germany within a month.

"A conservative estimate indicates that 50 tons of relief supplies of all kinds will come into Germany in the first three months," said Grainger. "This rate will accelerate to more than 100 tons by the last quarter of the first year."

Already, eight of the 61 national Red Cross societies in the League have indicated they have supplies ready to send to Germany through the League. The eight are: American Red Cross, Australia, Lichtenstein, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Canada.

Every type of relief is expected to be included in the shipments, with the emphasis on food, clothing and medical supplies.

**T**HE OMGUS-League agreement provides that all supplies will be channeled through the German Central Committee under the Laenderrat and the Laender Red Cross organizations in Bavaria, Hesse, Wuerttemberg-Baden, and Bremen.

By distributing supplies through Laender Red Cross agencies, Grainger said, the League hopes to strengthen the Red Cross in Germany, as well as help the German people. He explained that at present there is no National German Red Cross. The national organization was broken up by the occupying powers because of its complete domination by Nazis.

Grainger said the new agreement provides the basis for the first American Red Cross contributions to the German people. Previously, all ARC

assistance in Germany has been for displaced persons.

This is the third agreement negotiated by OMGUS with non-German agencies for the importation of relief supplies in bulk for distribution by approved German welfare agencies to the most needy. Previous agreements with CRALOG and the International Committee of the Red Cross provide for the receipt and distribution of supplies from many relief agencies in the United States, Switzerland, and other European countries.

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## New Wire Service

Local and long distance telephone and telegraph service to all points in Germany is available to all members of the US occupational forces and individuals serving with the occupational forces, Communications Branch, IA & C Division, OMGUS announced.

Both telephone and telegraph service is available from class "B" telephone and from attended pay stations in all major cities in the US Zone, at rest centers, and at leave hotels. Local calls at attended pay stations are five cents; and from class "B" telephones are 1½ cents, which is in addition to the basic rental fee of from 45 to 90 cents per month depending on the size of the city. Long distance telephone service for a three minute call up to a distance of 10 kilometers costs three cents; up to 15 kilometers 4½ cents; up to 25 kilometers six cents; up to 50 kilometers nine cents; up to 75 kilometers 13½ cents; up to 100 kilometers 18 cents.

For ordinary local telegraph service the fee is 1½ cents per word with a minimum of 10 words, and for ordinary telegrams within Germany, the fee is two cents per word, minimum 10 words.

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## Bearing Output Declines

Production of antifriction bearings in US Zone is declining, principally because of absenteeism and acute shortage of certain operating supplies.