

Chapter 18**Countering the Bolshevik Threat: Repatriation and American YMCA Expansion into Eastern Europe**

By the summer of 1919, American officials expected the imminent repatriation of Russian POWs from Germany. The Allies supported the White Russian armies and had committed their military forces to occupying North Russia and Siberia. General Anton Ivanovich Denikin was preparing a major summer offensive to regain the Ukraine, and General Nicholas Yudenitch would launch an attack on Petrograd in the fall of 1919. While the Polish frontier and the Danube River—the natural routes of prisoner exchange—were closed to traffic, American relief organizations planned the repatriation process through Baltic ports. In May 1919, the American Red Cross sent commissions to Lithuania and Estonia to prepare for these operations. After shipping relief supplies and personnel to these countries, the Red Cross set up clearing stations to process Russian prisoners from Germany. Over twelve thousand Russians passed through Lithuania in May 1919, but the organization acknowledged that they were a "mere drop in the bucket." Red Cross officials worked with the Inter-Allied Commission to facilitate this Baltic exodus. An additional twenty-six thousand Russian POWs traveled through Estonia within the next few months. In addition, the Allies developed a Hamburg-to-Odessa shipping route to transport Russian prisoners to southern Russia. By the end of the summer, the Allies had transported fifty thousand prisoners on the long voyage to the Black Sea.

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The American YMCA followed the lead of the Red Cross and set up operations in Narva, Estonia during the fall of 1919. Two American secretaries organized a clearing station for Russian prisoners heading home from Germany, and for Central Power POWs en route to Germany or the former Hapsburg dominions. Both the Baltic and Black Sea routes were inadequate, however, for the hundreds of thousands of prisoners who had to be repatriated. By 30 June 1919, the American Red Cross planned to reduce repatriation operations in the Baltic because officials expected the imminent opening of the Polish frontier and the Danube River. The prospect of a White Russian victory in the Russian Civil War was thought to be so likely that the American Red Cross expected the remainder of Germany's Russian POWs to return home before the winter of 1919-1920.¹

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The failure of the White Russian leaders to unify under a single command and coordinate their military operations had an adverse effect on Russian POWs in Germany. Instead of returning home near the end of 1919, the Russians suffered through another winter in German prison camps. The American YMCA provided services and supplies to relief committees in the camps during this period. Between 1 November 1918 and 31 October 1919, the International Committee expended \$201,200 on WPA operations in German camps, almost 25 percent of the American YMCA's WPA total budget for that fiscal year. With few Russian prisoners having been repatriated, the American YMCA tried to provide some relief over the Christmas holidays. They sent supplies from Paris (the center for American YMCA relief work for Russian refugees) to German prison camps to help the inmates celebrate the Orthodox Christmas in January

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1920. Donald Lowrie, an American YMCA secretary who had worked in Russia during the war, supervised Association efforts for Russian prisoners in Germany. He faced a difficult challenge since the majority of these men simply wanted to return home. Lowrie continued Red Triangle support through education, religious, and recreational work to combat this "soul-destroying environment." Lowrie distributed Christmas parcels in December 1919, including indoor games (dominoes, checkers, chess, and halma), mouth organs, and a small amount of money (one hundred to 250 Marks), so that welfare committees could purchase a Christmas tree, decorations, and small supplies. He also made sure that every Russian prisoner received a pound of apples, and the YMCA continued to distribute candy, cigarettes, cocoa, and milk. The Red Triangle supplies were supplemented by parcels from the Norwegian Relief Committee, which included Russian books.²

The Russian prisoners in Germany were clearly a forgotten lot. While the Allied blockade had been lifted in June 1919 and food exports had resumed to Germany, the Russian POWs found that their rations continued to be meager. Clothing was in equally short supply. Although the Weimar government and German help committees did all they could to assist the Russians, their position remained pitiable. By January 1920, over two hundred thousand Russian prisoners still languished in Germany, and they all harbored hopes of returning home during the summer months. The Russian prisoners, however, would clearly not be leaving Germany in the foreseeable future, and the American YMCA would have to reorganize its welfare operations.³

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Establishment of Russian Relief Work in Germany

To a large extent, the International Committee had neglected their Russian charges still in Germany. After the war, the American YMCA developed post-war welfare programs in many Eastern European nations and implemented pledges made during the conflict. While a general reconciliation with Germany was achieved by 1920 within the World's Alliance, relations between the American and German Associations remained guarded. The International Committee had focused on providing welfare services for the victims of the Russian Civil War and helping the Russian Orthodox Church survive the conflict. Ralph Hollinger, an experienced American YMCA secretary, organized an Association School in Cleveland to train secretaries for service with Russians before leaving for Eastern Europe in 1919. Early in 1920, Paul B. Anderson and Joseph J. Somerville, American secretaries with extensive Russian experience, were in London preparing to return to Russia when they learned of the plight of the Russian prisoners still in Germany. They took immediate measures to have men sent from Hollinger's school to Germany to assist Lowrie.⁴

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By May 1920, the American YMCA had greatly expanded the scope of its WPA work for Russian prisoners. Anderson and Somerville joined Lowrie in Germany to expand Association operations. This force was augmented by fifteen American Rhodes scholars from Oxford University who volunteered to spend their summer in Germany helping the Russians. The

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situation in the prison camps had changed radically during the winter months. The Russian POWs became zealous students after a rumor began that the Soviet government would not accept any POWs who could not read or write. Russian welfare committees in the prison camps "abolished illiteracy" among these soldiers, who were largely peasants, and declared that no prisoner would be repatriated who could not pass a literacy test. Anderson helped the Russians set up schools across Germany. The POWs set up education committees, recruited teachers from the POW ranks, and the Association obtained scarce Russian textbooks from a variety of sources. The dearth of textbooks was the primary obstacle, and the YMCA had to import them from the Russian border countries, such as Latvia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. Anderson also requested that the Russian Department of the American YMCA publish Russian books in Berlin. To teach orthography, the Association printed the letters of the Russian alphabet on large sheets of paper. Teachers could easily tack these sheets to the walls of classrooms and POWs could practice copying the letters in their notebooks.

At Bautzen, the Association secretary found only one thousand Russian prisoners. All fifty illiterate POWs in this camp went to school for three hours every day. To compensate these men for their enforced schooling, the camp commandant "paid " them five cigarettes a day. The American YMCA provided books to the school at Stargard, which permitted the camp committee to extend their operations. A similar situation emerged at Parchim. The Russian POWs sought to establish an "ideal community," where everyone worked for the good of all. Over three hundred students volunteered to go to the camp school, which was taught by seven teachers drawn from the POW ranks, who refused pay for their labors. The poorer pupils helped with the school and worked for free during their spare time in camp activities such as bookbinding, theater work, or choir participation. Proceeds from entertainment performances were used to purchase new books for the library and daily newspapers for the barracks, reading room, hospital, and prison. Russian camp authorities encouraged educational pursuits through speeches and propaganda notices. Their mantra was: "If you can read, go to the library and get books; if you can't, come to school and we will teach you." For more advanced students, the education committees organized courses in history, geography, mathematics, and languages. By the end of the year, the American secretary could report that only a very small number of men (less than 15 percent of the POWs) remained illiterate.⁵

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But the Russians' enthusiasm exceeded a mere thirst for learning to read and write. The prisoners embraced the concept that the salvation of Russia lay in the improved knowledge and working ability of its citizens. What the country desperately needed was an improved level of education throughout the entire population. While there were strong Bolshevik tendencies among the Russian prisoners in Germany, non-Bolsheviks spoke their thoughts and held office in the camp committees—all of the prison camps adopted the principle of absolute free speech. With the success of the Red Army, many POWs accepted the Soviet as their future form of government as a matter of national patriotism. Given the destruction caused by the First World War and the Russian Civil War, most Russian prisoners realized that they were not returning to a land of milk and honey. They recognized that "what Russia needs most was education of all her people, education both general and technical."⁷

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At this point, political perspectives had shifted radically, both on the part of the Russian prisoners and the American and British secretaries. While Conrad Hoffman and the Allied authorities exercised primary control over the Russian POWs, the Association was locked in mortal combat with the Bolsheviks. Maintaining tight control over Bolshevik activities, the Allies sought to win the hearts and minds of these prisoners, and the Association believed that it held the upper hand through its Four-fold Program of mental, spiritual, and physical improvement. With the withdrawal of Allied supervision and the reduction of Association WPA support, the Russian prisoners found themselves increasingly neglected and isolated. By the summer of 1920, the tide had turned. Most of the Russian POWs accepted the prediction that the Bolsheviks would emerge triumphant from the Russian Civil War, and they embraced Marxist ideology. Even the American YMCA realized that access to Russia in the future would require cooperation with the Soviet government. By refusing to work with the Bolsheviks to develop a *modus vivendi*, the Association would lose all of the gains that the organization had made since the beginning of World War I.⁸

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This new Russian relief movement focused on practical training courses where prisoners could learn new trades and skills to rebuild and modernize the Russian economy. Prison committees emphasized the value of trade for the development of the nation rather than for individuals securing a livelihood. One important area of development was electricity; Russia lacked a national electrical system. At Crossen-an-der-Oder, the Association helped set up the Technical School of Electricity. The YMCA hired a teacher from Berlin, and the proceeds from the camp's canteen and cinema shows went to support the school. Anderson pressed the

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Association to establish another technical school at Güstrow. The YMCA trained prisoners in a wide variety of fields. Some prisoners learned electrical theory and application, including the generation and transmission of electrical currents, simpler uses of electric power, wiring for light and power, telephone installation, and telegraphy. In carpentry, furniture-making, and painting classes, POWs received training in the use of ordinary carpentry tools, making joints for simple building construction, furniture-making, and varnishing and painting these products. Other prisoners at Güstrow learned locksmithing, including opening locks whose keys were lost, lock construction systems, and safety appliances. Since many Russian prisoners came from rural areas, agricultural classes were also stressed. Prisoners learned about soil culture, crop rotation, dairying, and farm machinery use. In addition, POWs could receive training in library science and learn how to set up libraries for village communities. Similar schools were established in Parchim, Stargard, and Altdamm.⁹

Anderson realized that the Association was taking on a large project. He developed ties with the Russian Bureau for War Prisoners to collaborate in setting up technical institutes to train prisoners. With limited resources in terms of books, instructors, and material, Anderson recognized that the greatest benefits from this training would only be achieved by limiting the variety of courses offered to POWs and the number of students. By keeping classes small, they could achieve the highest efficiency of instruction, training, and practice. Anderson believed that by training Russian POWs, the Association would become an effective force in the reconstruction of the country through the future activities of the men that they trained. These skilled workers would demonstrate the effectiveness of the Association program, and the Soviet government would be willing to consider new forms of cooperation in the near future.¹⁰

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These WPA secretaries also introduced the same programs and activities to Russian prisoners as had been organized for POWs during the war. They set up canteens, provided musical instruments for the formation of bands and orchestras, and organized choirs and theater companies. Probably the most popular entertainment among the Russian POWs was motion pictures, for which the American YMCA provided projectors and films. The Russian Welfare Committee at Stargard sent a note of gratitude to the International Committee:

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Thanks to your services in providing entertainments, and especially the gift of a cinema, our comrades pass their free time for their own good, and every day they are attracted away from harmful pastimes such as drinking and gambling.¹¹

American secretaries had also set up an extensive welfare system for Russian prisoners in southern Germany by July 1920, establishing camp work at Erlangen, Puchheim, Hammelburg, Bayreuth, Ingolstadt, and Nürnberg in Bavaria, and Ulm and Münsingen in Württemberg. By this time, Anderson had set up an Association headquarters for Russian work in Berlin, with the assistance of Trainer P. Miller, which was at full operation by October. The moral welfare of these men remained a high priority for the YMCA secretaries.¹²

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American Relief Operations

The YMCA secretaries dispatched to work with Russian prisoners also cooperated with other American relief organizations working in Germany. American Red Triangle workers noted the terrible economic conditions the German people faced during the summer of 1920. The lack of fuel, the high cost of foreign raw materials, and difficulties in finding overseas markets crippled Germany's export industries, which represented 25 percent of the nation's Gross National Product before the war. Every German city was crowded with idle men, barefoot women, and sickly and stunted children. The cinemas were crowded every night, not because of widespread prosperity, but because the movies were the only place people could get warm. The German government was headed for bankruptcy, as state printing presses produced one billion new paper Marks each week without increasing the nation's gold reserves. The Germans were using up their permanent wealth at a rapid pace. They lived in houses they could not rebuild, wore out furniture and clothing they could not replace, and traveled over roads and railroads that were steadily deteriorating. In Stettin, the tramway system simply stopped because the company could not maintain fares that people could afford and simultaneously pay the wages of the system's employees. As a result, workers had to walk to their jobs, tramway operators became unemployed, and the company's shares lost all value. 15

Despite these hardships, most Germans treated American relief workers with the utmost kindness and consideration. The upper classes were eager to establish a good relationship with the Americans, while the lower classes heard of the American relief work and showed their appreciation for U.S. welfare efforts. German families in contact with the AEF found good reason for making the acquaintance of Americans in Germany. To have been a POW under American control during the war was usually a windfall for the family. Most German prisoners brought home comforts that the family could not afford, including American tobacco, soap, a U.S. Army overcoat, wool socks, shirts, and underwear.¹³ 16

The American YMCA consulted with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the American Relief Administration (ARA) during these organizations' welfare work in Germany. The first American Quaker delegation (consisting of Jane Addams, Carolena M. Wood, and Dr. Alice Hamilton) crossed the Dutch border into Germany in June 1919 and conducted a survey of conditions. They reported on the terrible impact of the Allied blockade on the health of German children, and they recommended that the AFSC undertake a food distribution program to assist them. German children suffered from a variety of diseases including rickets, mental retardation, dropsy, anemia, skin disease, and especially tuberculosis. Children were often two to three years older than they appeared. During the fall of 1919, Herbert Hoover asked the Quakers to take over American food distribution in Germany. The AFSC accepted the request and sent the first group of eighteen relief workers, under the direction of Alfred G. Scattergood, in January 1920, to initiate food distribution operations. Within six months, the AFSC was feeding approximately eight hundred thousand undernourished children one hot meal a day. 17

The Quakers set up food distribution operations across Germany, focusing on large cities, particularly Berlin, Danzig, Stettin, Breslau, Frankfurt-an-der-Oder, Hamburg, Essen, Cologne, Coblenz, Frankfurt-am-Main, Mainz, Munich, Leipzig, Dresden, and Chemnitz. The organization set up eight relief districts, with a central office in each district (Essen, Cologne, Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig, Frankfurt-am-Main, Dresden, and Munich). Two or more American Quaker representatives were assigned to each office-with the exception of Cologne, which was under the direction of the British Society of Friends-to coordinate and inspect the allocation, transport, and distribution of supplies; to arrange medical examinations of mothers and children seeking rations; to organize and direct local volunteer groups; to make periodic reports, inventories, and audits; and to enable efficient, honest, non-partisan, and friendly implementation of this program. The AFSC was able to set up such an extensive operation by enlisting German volunteers; over twenty-two thousand Germans supported this great humanitarian enterprise. The Quakers organized central kitchens and feeding stations in these cities, providing the food and equipment. Children received white bread and thick, hot soup after they had been selected through a careful medical examination as the neediest cases. 18

The American YMCA secretaries in Germany worked with Robert Yarnall, the leader of the American Quaker Mission in Germany, although the focus of Red Triangle work remained relief for the Russian prisoners. In New York, Hoover called a conference in June 1920 to address welfare relief operations in Germany. This meeting included representatives of the AFSC, the American YMCA, the American Relief Administration, the YWCA, and the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Hoover asked these organizations to cooperate and pool their resources in mutual assistance. He recommended that they form a new fund-raising organization to finance relief operations. The representatives agreed and formed the European Relief Council (ERC). Over time, the American Red Cross, the Federal Council of Churches, the Knights of Columbus, and the National Catholic Welfare Council joined the ERC. The goal of all of these organizations in extending assistance to Germany was to carry the message of good will from America and to provide needed assistance to desperate people. This work was of immense value for the future peace of Central Europe, and marked the first step towards the friendship among nations that was a prerequisite for the reconstruction of Europe.¹⁴ 19

The Renewed Repatriation of Russian Prisoners in the Summer of 1920

With the successes of the Red Army and the collapse of the White Armies across Russia during the summer of 1920, there was no longer any reason for the Allies to prevent the Weimar government from repatriating Russian prisoners. The Germans established a Baltic shipping route between Stettin and Narva, Estonia, Riga, Latvia, and Bjoerkö, Finland to transport Russian prisoners from Germany and retrieve German and Dual Monarchy POWs from Russia. While the political constraints on repatriation no longer existed, physical barriers had emerged. Under Annex III of Part VIII, "Reparation," of the Versailles Treaty, most of 20

Germany's merchant marine fleet had been transferred to the Entente nations as replacements for Allied merchant ships and fishing boats sunk during the war. These enforced reparations left very few merchant ships available to transport prisoners between Germany and Estonia. Of the eight ships that the German government could charter to ply the Baltic waters during the summer months of 1920, only one ship was German-owned.¹⁵

To ease the suffering of the POWs during the repatriation process, the American YMCA assigned secretaries to serve prisoners at Baltic ports and aboard the merchant ships. Lowrie, J. A. V. Davies, G. S. Whitehead, and other American secretaries served on these crowded ships. For example, the 1,500-ton transport, S.S. *Regina*, carried bunks for 550 men, but the average load was almost eight hundred. Despite the over-crowded situation, living conditions were better than expected. The Germans provided appetizing and adequate food, and the ship's officers made the passengers, both Russians and Central Europeans, as comfortable and contented as possible. The Central Association Office in Berlin provided the YMCA secretaries with ample supplies for the voyage. Red Triangle workers distributed gift packages (*Liebesgaben*) to all of the prisoners. These parcels included cigarettes, chocolate, writing paper, envelopes, small souvenir maps of the trip, games, and books. For sick and undernourished babies, the secretaries provided condensed milk (many Central Power prisoners imprisoned in Siberia during the war acquired wives and families and brought them home during the repatriation process). For sick Central Power prisoners returning from Russia, the YMCA offered milk, eggs, lemons, and biscuits. The Association also arranged for doctors to accompany the ships, although they had few supplies to minister to the seriously ill. This welfare work was unique, as the American YMCA was the only relief agency working with the repatriates.¹⁶

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For the Russian prisoners heading back home, these voyages were only the beginning of their long trek. Once on board ship, they abandoned their shyness and began to play music on their accordions. This eventually expanded into larger shows, where performers usually included clog dancers, acrobats, readers, opera singers, and makeshift orchestras. Men gathered into groups by nationality for evening concerts and vied with each other singing their favorite national songs. They offered a simple fervent patriotism as they sang their Russian songs. Despite the red bands they wore on their arms, they carried home loving and kindly hearts.¹⁷

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The Central Power prisoners arriving in Stettin from Russia were a somewhat different lot. The Bolshevik government sent home only prisoners that had been certified 60 percent invalid by a special committee; officers were not permitted to leave. Some officers slipped through the examination disguised as enlisted men or insane. Life in much of Russia had been reduced to a state of barter. Prisoners exchanged goods for labor or other goods. Lowrie met POWs who earned forty-two rubles a day for skilled work, but a pound of butter cost 1,300 rubles. It was difficult for these men to survive, but they formed cooperatives where members pooled their resources and food to make ends meet. The Central Power prisoners also varied considerably in nationality. They began the war as German or Austro-Hungarian troops, but they arrived at

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Stettin as Germans, Austrians, Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Romanians, Yugoslavians, or Italians. In comparison to the Russian prisoners, these men were more alert, better educated, and even more destitute. Since many of these men had lived in Russia for six years, some of them had met Russian women and married. They returned with complete families, and Lowrie reported that one transport he traveled on carried eighty children, including an eight-day old baby. Many of these men were sick, the children were malformed and undernourished, and all bore traces of mental suffering; Davies described one ship that landed 125 insane prisoners in Stettin.¹⁸

When these ships docked, the former prisoners were met by German girls carrying flowers and bands playing national songs. The prisoners cheered for the first time in many years. They stumbled down the gangplanks carrying assorted packs filled with their ragged collections of worldly goods. The POWs wore a variety of articles, ranging from German and Austrian uniforms to Russian peasant clothing, all patched. Some wore shoes or homemade sandals, but most were ragged. Nevertheless, they wept at the welcome. Families reunited on the docks: parents and sons, wives and husbands, and even new children or grandchildren. Some parents and wives met every transport, hoping to hear some news about a lost loved one from disembarking prisoners. The YMCA had secretaries meet these transports at their arrival at Stettin. The Americans were invariably asked if the United States was open to these men. With the imposition of tougher immigration laws, the secretaries had to respond that, while the U.S. did not offer them a home at that time, Americans were mindful of their plight and were anxious to help them rebuild Europe.¹⁹

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The Germans could not understand the motivation behind the American YMCA's relief effort for prisoners during the repatriation process. The primary principle that drove Red Triangle welfare operations was the organization's basic Christian mission. These prisoners were a forgotten lot, with many significant needs. They had been neglected by the world, their children were undernourished, and most were sick. These forlorn prisoners felt a new hope when they met an Association secretary who renewed their spirits and gave them a reason to look forward to the future:

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The generous sympathy and compassion, the realization that we are not entirely forgotten in this foreign land, help many a despairing one to new hope, and to bring a bright beam of sunshine into their existence.²⁰

By providing comforts and demonstrating a Christian concern, secretaries hoped, in some small way, to assuage the pain these men had endured and to show that they were not completely forgotten. As one returning POW said, "Your service is indicative of the spirit of true and genuine religion, it strengthens the hope in me for a time of fraternalism and Christian love among men."²¹ These were the first concrete post-war steps towards international reconciliation and the reconstruction of Central and Eastern Europe.²²

The Russo-Polish War of 1920 and German Prison Camps

The number of Russian POWs in Germany suddenly grew again during the fall of 1920 as the result of the Russo-Polish War. On 25 April 1920 the Polish Army invaded the Ukraine to seize control of this territory from the Bolsheviks. The Poles had formed an alliance with the Ukrainian nationalist leader, General Simon Petliura, and sought to take advantage of Bolshevik diversions on other fronts. The Polish Army swarmed east, and by May 7 the Poles had captured Kiev. The American YMCA sent war work secretaries to support the Polish Army, and it appeared that the Poles had won a stunning victory. The Red Army, however, spent this time concentrating its forces for a counter-offensive in the Ukraine. In early June 1920, the Bolshevik armies attacked, and the Poles staged a desperate defense. The Polish lines broke, and the Bolsheviks recaptured Kiev on June 11, and seized Vilna on July 15. The Poles retreated west, fighting a delaying action. The Red Army captured Pinsk, Grodno, and Bialystok, and a Polish collapse appeared imminent. But this delaying action bought Marshal Josef Pilsudski time to reorganize his forces (with the support of the French, under General Maxim Weygand) and establish a defense line between Lvov, in the southeast, running northwest to Plotsk. By August 14, the Bolsheviks were on the outskirts of the Polish capital, and the Battle of Warsaw began. After several days of heavy Bolshevik attack, the Poles launched a counter-offensive east of Warsaw. Through the "Miracle of the Vistula," Pilsudski split the Bolshevik armies, forcing the Soviets to fall back and relinquish their Polish conquests. With new threats from the White Russians under General Peter Wrangel from Yalta, the Bolsheviks decided to sign an armistice with the Poles on 12 October 1920 to end the fighting on their western front.²³

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With the sudden Polish counter-offensive in August 1920, Red Army units in northern Poland found themselves cut off from retreat. They faced two alternatives: annihilation by the Poles or internment in East Prussia. Given these choices, the Bolsheviks crossed the German border and surrendered. Approximately forty thousand Red Army prisoners became the "guests" of the German government. These new Soviet internees represented a new threat to German security. They were feared by the German population because of their reported atrocities during the Russian Civil War, and by the Weimar government for their potential incitement of radicals. As a result, the Germans established an air-tight guard over these men to prevent them from having any contact with civilians. The Soviet representatives in Germany supported this decision because they did not want these men exposed to Allied agents. Even Red Triangle secretaries found it difficult to enter prison camps with Bolshevik prisoners.²⁴

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The interminable state of war had a terrible impact on many Red Army prisoners, and the Soviet Bureau in Berlin recognized how much the American YMCA had assisted Russian POWs during World War I. Anderson visited the prison camp for the new Russian internees at Arys in late August 1920 and recognized the need for the immediate implementation of relief work for these men. He contacted John R. Mott in early September requesting additional aid to begin operations. The American willingness to extend assistance and the dire condition of many of these internees resulted in the Bolsheviks permitting another American YMCA

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secretary, D. M. Amaker, to inspect Red Army internees in the fall of 1920. Amaker's mission was to study how Association efforts might be most profitably directed for the welfare of Red Army prisoners; to observe the morale and physical condition of the prisoners and take stock of their willingness to organize schools and participate in sports, music, or theatricals; to ascertain the needs of sick Red Army prisoners; and to look for other possible areas of usefulness. He was accompanied by two Russians: Dr. Jossilewski, a physician who was not sympathetic to Bolshevik economic theories but was deeply interested in the welfare of Russian POWs; and Colonel Duisburg, a former tsarist officer who had converted to the Bolshevik cause. He was interned with his troops in East Prussia, but was elected by the interned officers as their representative to the Soviet Bureau in Berlin. By permitting Amaker to travel with Soviet representatives, the German prison camp commandants could see that the Bolshevik authorities personally vouched for YMCA work.²⁵

This delegation traveled across Germany, inspecting the prison camps that held Red Army detainees. They began with visits to prison camps in the vicinity of Berlin before heading south. In Bayreuth, in Bavaria, Amaker found hundreds of suffering prisoners. They had marched hundreds of miles on empty stomachs and were in desperate need of clean clothing, baths, and good food. Most of these men were exhausted and apathetic. In the German prison, the Russians were disinfected and bathed and then received a thick soup. The German hospital barracks were not prepared to receive the Red Army prisoners, and the Russians felt bitterness against the Germans for not offering them better treatment. The delegates proceeded to Erlangen, where Red Army and German military patients received the same treatment and were integrated into the same wards. These interned soldiers raved about their good treatment and begged to remain where they were.²⁶

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The delegates then traveled north, visiting Red Army enlisted prisoners at Soltau and Parchim, plus the officers' camp at Falkenburger Moor. Conditions in the prison camps in northern Germany were superior to those in the south. In these prisons, the morale of the Red Army troops was much better. They chafed at the restrictions the Germans placed on their liberty of movement, and they pointed out that they were interned soldiers, not prisoners of war. They considered themselves to be the "guests" of the German government, and they expected the best of everything. Upon closer reflection, many Red Army detainees acknowledged that they were glad to stay in Germany for a while, with a roof over their heads, a place to lie down, and at least one good meal a day. Amaker was especially surprised by the clothing the Red Army internees wore: many of these men wore American Army coats, shirts, breeches, wrapped puttees, and overseas caps (the Russians had taken them from Polish POWs, corpses, or from captured warehouses). Both Red Army officers and enlisted men were delighted at the prospect of receiving Red Triangle welfare support. They welcomed the gifts of athletic equipment, including soccer balls, basketballs, handballs, as well as indoor games, such as checkers and chess. Amaker also arranged for the YMCA to send special food items to Red

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Army prisoners in German military hospitals as well as other gifts. He opened the door for American YMCA assistance to all two hundred thousand Russian prisoners still incarcerated in Germany as of December 1920.²⁷

By November 1920, the American YMCA had established an extensive welfare program for Russian prisoners across Germany. Bryant R. Ryall supervised Russian operations from Berlin, which included relief work for war prisoners, internees, and refugees. The Association set up technical schools and libraries across Germany for Russian refugees who had fled the horrors of the Russian Civil War. For POWs and internees, the Association assigned six American Red Triangle workers to work as field secretaries in thirty-nine prison camps. M. V. Arnold worked in northern Germany, assigned to Pomerania (Altdamm and Stargard) and Mecklenburg (Güstrow, and Parchim). J. N. Engle served eight prison camps in central and eastern Germany. He conducted operations in Brandenburg (Crossen-an-der-Oder, Frankfurt-an-der-Oder, Cottbus, Guben, and Müncheberg), Silesia (Sagan and Neuhammer), and Saxony (Bautzen). Charles L. Moore was assigned the largest number of prison camps, serving nine facilities in Prussian Saxony, Anhalt, and Hesse-Nassau in central Germany. Moore worked in Prussian Saxony (Merseburg, Quedlinburg, Magdeburg, Gardelegen, and Salzwedel), Anhalt (Zerbst), Hesse-Nassau (Cassel), and Saxony (Chemnitz and Zwickau). Joseph J. Somerville served Russians in northwestern Germany, working in Westphalia (Senne, Minden, Ströhen Moore, and Lichtenhorst) and Hannover (Hamel, Celle, and Lüneburg). V. C. Hart, also assigned to northwestern Germany, focused his work exclusively on prisons in Hannover (Soltau, Havelburg, Ahlen Falkenberger Moore, and Königsmoor). In southern Germany, Howard E. Merrill conducted WPA operations in Bavaria (Würzburg, Bayreuth, Erlangen, Puchheim, and Hammelburg), Württemberg (Ulm and Münsingen), and Brandenburg (Fürstenfeldbrück). Together, they served 158,220 Russian prisoners and internees in German prison camps, plus 3,787 Russians convalescing in hospitals. The American secretaries also provided services to the sixteen boatloads of Russians that departed Germany for Estonia during November 1920.²⁸

The same six American secretaries maintained relief operations at these prison camps during December 1920. During this period, approximately forty thousand Russian POWs left Germany on twenty-three different voyages. The number of Russian prisoners fell to 116,476, although the number of Russians in German prison hospitals increased by twelve cases. At this time, Amos A. Ebersole, Charles Seitz, and Herbert S. Gott expanded Association services for Russian refugees in Eastern Europe. In particular, they worked to institute relief services in Estonia to meet the growing tide of Russian refugees in the Baltic countries.²⁹

The onset of winter slowed down the repatriation process in January 1921. The freezing of Baltic ports hindered shipborne traffic. While twenty-two transport voyages occurred during the month, the number of Russian POWs in Germany only declined by just under fourteen thousand men, to 102,681. The good news was that over seven hundred Russians left German hospitals, leaving 3,001 Russian patients. Enough Russian POWs had left the country so that

the German government could close the facilities at Merseberg and Zwickau, and the government announced that an additional seven camps would be shut down that month. During the long winter months, the six American field secretaries maintained religious, social, and education work. They made a major effort to make sure that the prisoners and internees enjoyed a cheerful Orthodox Christmas. The Association trade schools remained operating at full throttle, and Wünsdorf became a model school for refugees. To assist the poorer elements of the German population, YMCA secretaries helped the American Quakers operate soup kitchens. In addition, American Baptists had taken an intense interest in fighting Bolshevism through evangelical Christian work. Twenty-five Baptist churches pooled their resources in early 1921 to support four evangelists working in German prison camps. They were locked in mortal combat with Bolshevik agitators, who opposed the Baptist evangelists with all of their power. The Christian-Bolshevik struggle for the hearts and minds of Russian prisoners was far from over.³⁰

The repatriation process resumed in earnest in February 1921. Nineteen shiploads of Russian prisoners carried over thirty thousand men during the month, leaving 69,745 POWs and internees, while the number of hospital patients fell to 2,389. Prison camps closed in Mecklenburg (Parchim), Saxony (Bautzen and Chemnitz), Silesia (Neuhammer), Brandenburg (Cottbus, Müncheberg, and Fürstenfeldbruck), Prussian Saxony (Merseburg), Westphalia (Ströhen Moore), Württemberg (Ulm and Münsingen), and Bavaria (Würzburg, Puchheim, and Hammelburg). Fourteen prison camps closed operations across Germany, which allowed the American YMCA to reassign Arnold and Merrill to other duties. They were replaced by C. C. Hatfield, who took over operations in the few camps left open in Mecklenburg, Pomerania, and Bavaria.³¹

A major political breakthrough in Russian POW repatriation from Germany occurred in March 1921, when the Polish and Bolshevik governments signed the Treaty of Riga. This agreement officially ended the war between Poland and Russia and allowed the Germans to repatriate Red Army internees. Five American field secretaries under Ryall's direction served the Russians in twenty-two prison camps, but the number of prisoners departing Germany during March was low. Only fourteen thousand Russians headed east, leaving a total of 55,468 POW's and internees in prisons and another 2,217 patients in German hospitals. With the advent of spring and the thawing of Baltic ports, the number of departing Russians increased to over sixteen thousand. By the end of April 1921, only 39,318 POWs remained in Germany (plus 2,037 hospital patients). Somerville also left Germany, leaving Hart, Moore, Hatfield, and Engle as the Association field secretaries. F. Hill Turner supervised the technical school at Wünsdorf for Russian refugees.³²

With the swift repatriation of Russian POWs and internees back to Russia, the American YMCA again shifted gears. The Red Triangle secretaries reduced their work for the waning number of prisoners and concentrated on providing welfare services to Russian refugees who

could not return home for political reasons. By November 1921, the American YMCA had ended all of its work for Russian prisoners of war in Germany and dedicated its resources to refugee assistance.³³

With Bolshevik victories in the Russian Civil War and the pillars of tsarist society threatened with extinction, the American YMCA assumed a new role in the post-war world. The Bolsheviks launched the Red Terror, a campaign to reconstruct Russian society and place it on the path to socialism. Dedicated to atheism and the destruction of the key institutions of the imperial regime, the Bolsheviks strove to eliminate all vestiges of the Russian Orthodox Church. Surviving members of the Russian nobility fled the country to save their lives. Even Russian intellectuals found themselves in conflict with the nation's new social architects. The American YMCA had hoped to establish a rapport with the new Bolshevik leadership, and tried to establish a dialogue early in the civil war. As atheists and xenophobes, the Red leadership could not condone the activities of a foreign Christian welfare organization within their borders. American secretaries in Russia had to evacuate from Soviet-controlled regions and provide assistance to Russian soldiers and civilians in White Russian territory. As the White Russian coalition collapsed, American secretaries withdrew to eastern Siberia, and the International Committee had to reframe its Russian policy. The American YMCA leadership decided to provide assistance to Russian refugees in the Far East, Turkey, Eastern Europe, and Central Europe. This new policy included welfare services to fleeing Russian refugees, stranded intellectuals and students, and exhausted White Russian soldiers. In the view of the American YMCA, the key to Russia's future was to protect and foster the Russian Orthodox Church. In an ideological crusade, the Bolsheviks sought to stamp out Orthodoxy and other religions in Russia, while the American YMCA strove to save and nurture the church for a future resurgence.³⁴

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In Germany, the American YMCA served Russian refugees by establishing the Russian Religious Philosophical Academy in Berlin in November 1922. The Association envisioned this institution serving a central role in Russian student work in Germany in developing the future leaders of Russian spiritual life. The YMCA provided the necessary institutional framework to serve as a home to a group of outstanding Russian thinkers and leaders-who had been forced to leave Russia because of their non- Marxist conviction-who hoped to assure the continuity of Russia's intellectual and cultural traditions. The academy was to serve as a center for research, lectures, and open discussions of religious problems for Russians, especially students. The basic credo of the institution was that religious experience must be the foundation of philosophy, instead of simply relying on experience and the structural laws of logic. Life experiences had to be analyzed as religious problems, and all possible philosophical interpretations of life became religious interpretations, with Christ as the focal point. Even the science departments were reintegrated in terms of religious doctrine. The academy hoped to serve as a model for the reintegration of a Christian Russian society, and to serve as an impetus for this resurgence.³⁵

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When the Russian Academy was initially opened, a great deal of skepticism and sarcasm was expressed regarding the futility of the Association enterprise. With time, the academy became a community of thinkers, fully cognizant of their perceived mission as the future spiritual leaders of Russia. The members sought to broadcast their message to the Russian émigré community in Germany. Every month, the institution had one or two large public meetings, with several members presenting a spiritual interpretation of the burning issues of the day. The ensuing debates reflected the currents of Russian exile thought, which was deeply concerned with social problems. These meetings attracted audiences in excess of four hundred people. The Association's goal was to offer an institutional setting for a spiritual mission to the Russian people. From the YMCA's perspective, Russian Orthodoxy was based on rituals and mysticism, and lacked a practical Christian element, because Orthodox priests failed to teach a complete system of ethics. Russian Orthodoxy never demonstrated to people that their daily lives could be understood as a constantly recurring chance to render service to God. American YMCA leaders believed that the Orthodox Church had not shown its adherents their whole individuality and personality. From the Association's perspective, the YMCA's contribution to Russian religious life would not be philosophical or theological. Instead, the YMCA believed that its contribution lay in the practical application of Christ's teachings to both the great social problems of the day and the problems of personal daily life.³⁶ 39

By 1923, the Association considered the Russian Academy a major success. The institution's courses were crowded with students, and the professors had won international recognition. A general atmosphere of respect permeated the academy and, more importantly, the members participated in a passionate discussion of religious problems during and after lectures. But the Russian Academy was more than a local proposition. Its influence spread to the entire Russian exile colony in Europe, and even back into Russia. The American YMCA was now undertaking an important mission: supporting Russian student refugees in maintaining their studies; supporting the traditional Russian intelligentsia; and protecting and nurturing the Russian Orthodox Church so that Christianity would someday in the future return to Mother Russia.³⁷ 40

Conclusion

The American YMCA's service to Russian prisoners in Germany after June 1919 reflected a major change in the International Committee's policy. While Red Triangle secretaries provided some support to ARA and American Quaker relief operations for the German population, the Association did not concentrate on German social welfare work. To some degree, this arrangement reflected the strained relations between the American and German YMCAs, but it also reflected the decline in the American Association's resources after the war. The end of the conflict, combined with a post-war recession in the United States, resulted in a serious downward turn in financial contributions to the Association. In addition, the International 41

Committee had numerous goals during the war, and the scarce resources it had were dedicated to fulfilling these obligations. The American YMCA could not take on new projects with a declining financial base.

The American YMCA did continue to support prisoners of war trapped in Germany after the war. The Association recognized that Russian POWs faced the prospect of remaining in German prisons, while the other Allied prisoners returned home. Russian POWs confronted the further threat of having to choose between Bolshevism and their traditional beliefs. With the collapse of the White Russian armies and the Allied withdrawal from Russia, the YMCA concluded that they could not defeat the Bolsheviks, but sought instead to establish a *modus vivendi* so that the Association could establish welfare operations in the country after the end of the civil war. WPA work for the Russian prisoners was transferred to the Russian Division of the American YMCA and renewed with great vigor in Germany. When the United States entered World War I, Mott seized the opportunity to expand Association operations in Russia in alliance with the Orthodox Church. As this optimism collapsed with the advances of the Red Army and the Bolshevik institution of the Red Terror, the Association had to revise its objectives. The Soviet attack on the church eliminated any opportunities for the YMCA to work with the Orthodox Church in Russia; instead, the Association worked to save and bolster the church during a period of crisis. With the influx of Red Army prisoners into Germany after the Polish victory, Red Triangle workers strove to assist all Russians trapped-for whatever reason-in Central Europe. 42

The resumption of Baltic trade and the peace treaty between Russia and Poland opened prison gates in Germany. By the fall of 1920, the majority of Russian POWs in Germany had returned home, and the YMCA redirected its resources to aiding Russian refugees. Several more years and the efforts of the Nansen Commission and the League of Nations were required to transport the last German and former Austro-Hungarian POWs home from Siberia. The American YMCA participated with other welfare organizations to help these poor unfortunates through their long ordeal as they traversed the Pacific Ocean for Hamburg or Trieste. But their experience was part of the aftermath of the Russian Civil War, and constitutes another chapter in the history of the American YMCA. 43

Notes:

Note 1: American National Red Cross, *The American National Red Cross Annual Report, June 30, 1919*, (Washington, D.C.: American Red Cross, 1919), 151-52.

Note 2: "Work Among Prisoners of War, Nov. 1, 1918 to Oct, 31, 1919," circa November 1919, 1. Armed Services Box AS-20. Box X673.6: "Reports: 1916-1921: World War #1: Allied Armies and Prisoners of War. " Folder: "Prisoners-of-War: Allied Armies and Prisoners-of-War, National War Work Council." YMCAs of the U.S. Archives, Minneapolis, MN. Donald Lowrie, "What the 'Y' Has Done to Help These Unfortunate Men," circa January 1920, Stargard,

Germany, 1. Armed Services Box AS-20. File: "Prisoner of War Reports—Donald Lowrie, 1920." Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN. Olin D. Wannamaker, *For the Six Million Prisoners: The Welfare Work of the YMCA in the Prison Camps of Ten Nations during World War I* (September 1921), 271.

Note 3: B. Schaposchnikow and Lexajew, "A Passionate Appeal from the Long-Suffering Russian Prisoners: Russian Prison Camp Committee, Prison Camp Stargard, Germany, January 29, 1920," 29 January 1920, Stargard, Germany, 1. Armed Services Box AS-20. File: "Prisoner of War Reports—Donald Lowrie, 1920." Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN

Note 4: Kenneth Scott Latourette, *World Service: A History of the Foreign Work and World Service of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and Canada* (New York: Association Press, 1957), 375.

Note 5: Francis Miller, a leader in the Christian Student movement, recruited the American volunteers during the summer of 1920. Members of this group included D. M. Amaker, J. A. V. Davies, William Finger, P. M. Hamilton, Rexford Hersey, S. M. Keeny, D. R. McBride, Douglas Miller, Treadwell Smith, and G. S. Whitehead. Some of the students postponed their educations and remained in the field. Keeny worked at the Soviet-Polish POW exchange center at Baronvicze in 1921. Ethan Colton, *Forty Years with Russians*, (New York: Association Press, 1940), 34.

Note 6: Paul B. Anderson, "Schools for Russian Prisoners," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (28 January 1921): 17-18; P. B. Hamilton, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: II," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (28 January 1921): 22; Rexford B. Hersey, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: I," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (28 January 1921): 19-20; and Wannamaker, *Six Million*, 281.

Note 7: Rexford B. Hersey, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: I," 19-20.

Note 8: Rexford B. Hersey, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: I," 19-20; and D. M. Amaker, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: IV," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (28 January 1921): 27.

Note 9: Paul B. Anderson, "Schools for Russian Prisoners," 18; and Rexford B. Hersey, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: I," 20-21.

Note 10: Paul B. Anderson, "Schools for the Russian Prisoners," 18-19.

Note 11: P. B. Hamilton, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: II," 23.

Note 12: Rexford B. Hersey, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: I," 21; P. B. Hamilton, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: II," 23. Trainer P. Miller to Darius A. Davis, 4 August 1920, Berlin, 1; Trainer P. Miller, "Prisoners of War Work, Germany, July 1920," circa July 1920, 1-15; Paul B. Anderson, "Report Young Men's Christian Associations War Prisoners' Aid Activities among Russians in Germany, July, August, September 1920," 8 October 1920, Berlin, 1-8. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C. A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 13: Douglas Miller, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: III," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (28 January 1921): 24-25.

Note 14: The AFSC set up regional relief operations in Ruhr-Westphalia (Essen), the British Occupied Territory (Cologne), North Prussia-Mecklenburg (Hamburg), Brandenburg-Pomerania-North Saxony (Berlin), West Saxony-Thuringia (Leipzig), Hessen-Baden-Württemberg (Frankfurt-am-Main), East Saxony-Silesia (Dresden), and Bavaria (Munich). Douglas Miller, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: III," 26; D. M. Amaker, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: IV," 29-30; Lester M. Jones, *Quakers in Action: Recent Humanitarian and Reform Activities of the American Quakers* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1929), 36-55; and John Forbes, *The Quaker Star Under Seven Flags, 1917-1927: The Work of the American Friends Service Committee with Seven Governments to Relieve Civilian Victims of World War I* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1962), 89-121.

Note 15: Douglas Miller, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: III," 26; J. A. V. Davies, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: VII," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (28 January 1921): 35-36; Lawrence Martin, *The Treaties of Peace 1919-1923, Volume I: Containing the Treaty of Versailles, the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, and the Treaty of Trianon* (New York: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1924), 137-39; and Wannamaker, *Six Million*, 280.

Note 16: Lowrie's descriptions of American YMCA relief work for German, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian POWs were restricted by the International Committee as "Not for Publication." With the Red Scare underway in the United States, any publicity of Association assistance to Bolshevik prisoners might have resulted in a public relations backlash. G. S. Whitehead, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: VI," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (28 January 1921), 34-35; J. A. V. Davies, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: VII," 36; Donald Lowrie, "How Repatriation of Prisoners Is Aided by the Y.M.C.A.: On Board S.S. Lisboa, Stettin to Narva, July 12, 1920," 12 July 1920, Stettin, Germany, 1. Armed Services Box AS-20. File: "Prisoner of War Reports—Donald Lowrie, 1920." Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN. Paul A. Buttrick to Berry, 27 May 1920, Stettin, Germany, 1-3; Trainer P. Miller, "Prisoner of War Work, Germany, July 1920," circa July 1920, 2-5. World's

Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 17: J.A.V. Davies, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: VII," 36; and Donald Lowrie, "The `Y' at One of the War Prisoners' Exchanges," circa 1920, 1-3. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 18: J.A.V. Davies, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: VII," 37; Donald Lowrie, "How Repatriation of Prisoners Is Aided by the Y.M.C.A.: On Board S.S. Lisboa, Stettin to Narva, July 12, 1920," 20 July 1920, Stettin, Germany, 1-2. Armed Services Box AS-20. File: "Prisoner of War Reports—Donald Lowrie, 1920. " Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN; and Wannamaker, *Six Million*, 282.

Note 19: J. A. V. Davies, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: VII," 37; and Donald Lowrie, "How Repatriation of Prisoners Is Aided by the Y.M.C.A.: On Board S.S. Lisboa, Stettin to Narva, July 12, 1920," 12 July 1920, Stettin, Germany, 1-3. Armed Services Box AS-20. File: "Prisoner of War Reports—Donald Lowrie, 1920. " Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN.

Note 20: "In German Prison Camps: Where Friendship Counted Greatly," *Association Men* 46 (December 1920): 171.

Note 21: *Ibid.*, 171.

Note 22: G. S. Whitehead, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: VI," 34-35; Donald Lowrie, "How Repatriation of Prisoners Is Aided by the Y.M.C.A.: On Board S.S. Lisboa, Stettin to Narva, July 12, 1920," 20 July 1920, Stettin, Germany, 1-2. Armed Services Box AS-20. File: "Prisoner of War Reports—Donald Lowrie, 1920. " Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN; and "In German Prison Camps: Where Friendship Counted Greatly," 171.

Note 23: It is interesting to note that Marshal Pilsudski spent two years as an internee in a German prison camp in Magdeburg during World War I. When members of the Polish Legion, which Pilsudski commanded, refused to give their oath of allegiance to the new Polish Regency established by the Central Powers in Warsaw in 1916, the Germans and Austro-Hungarians imprisoned these troops. The Germans did not release Pilsudski until November 1918. Latourette, *World Service*, 375.

Note 24: D. M. Amaker, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: IV," 26; Wannamaker, *Six Million*, 285; and Latourette, *World Service*, 375.

Note 25: D. M. Amaker, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: IV," 27; and Paul B. Anderson, "Notes on a Visit to the Camp of Interned Russians at Arys, East Prussia, August 30th, 1920," 31 August 1920, Berlin, 1-4; Paul B. Anderson to John R. Mott, 9 September 1920, Berlin, 1. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 26: D. M. Amaker, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: IV," 27-28.

Note 27: D. M. Amaker, "Letters from Rhodes Scholars: IV," 28-29; and "In German Prison Camps: Where Friendship Counted Greatly," 171. Paul A. Buttrick, "Y.M.C.A. Work in East Prussia among the Sick and Wounded of the Soviet Red Army," 7 October 1920, Berlin, 1-5. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva. Latourette, *World Service*, 375.

Note 28: "Report for November 1920 Russian Department," circa December 1920, 1-11. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 29: Ebersole and Gott had considerable WPA experience that enabled them to support the repatriation mission in Estonia. Ebersole had worked as a WPA secretary in Germany, and Gott worked with Central Power prisoners in Russia during World War I. "Report for November 1920 Russian Department," circa December 1920, 10-12; Bryant R. Ryall, "Report of the Russian Department, Berlin, December 1920," circa January 1921, Berlin, 1-11; Bryant R. Ryall, "Report of the Russian Department Berlin—January 1921," circa February 1921, Berlin, 4-6. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 30: Bryant R. Ryall, "Report of the Russian Department Berlin—January 1921," circa February 1921, Berlin, 1-6. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva. Paul Patton Faris, "The Onward March of the Christian World: Russian Prisoners in Germany," *Association Men* 46 (March 1921): 312.

Note 31: Bryant R. Ryall, "Report of the P.O.W. Department for the Month of February 1921, " circa March 1921, Berlin, 1-7. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva. " Kriegsgefangene," *The Sphere* 2:2 (1921): 187.

Note 32: Bryant R. Ryall, "Report of the Russian Department for March 1921," circa April 1921, Berlin, 1-8; Bryant R. Ryall, "Report of the Russian Department in Germany for April 1921," circa May 1921, Berlin, 1-12. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 33: "Memorandum Regarding Service to Russian Refugees by the American Y.M.C.A.," 9 November 1921, 1-2. World's Alliance Box X392.2: "War Prisoners' Aid Y.M.C.A., 1914-1918: Russian P.O.W. s in Germany, 1920-1921; War Prisoners' Aid in Turkey, Great Britain, Italy." Section: "Russian P.O.W.s in Germany, 1920-1921." World's Alliance of YMCA Archives, Geneva.

Note 34: Pianoff, "The Russian Academy," *For the Millions of Men Now Under Arms* 3 (14 May 1923): 8.

Note 35: Pianoff, "The Russian Academy," 8.

Note 36: Pianoff, "The Russian Academy," 8-9.

Note 37: Pianoff, "The Russian Academy," 8-9.