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HEADQUARTERS
WURZBURG MILITARY POST
APO 800 US ARMY
Office of the Commanding General

20 July 1949

Mr. Allyn K. Ford
President, Minneapolis Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution
100 North Seventh Street
Minneapolis 3, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Ford:

I have just received a letter dated September 27, 1948, which you wrote to Mrs. E. J. Engberg of Faribault, Minnesota concerning the work being done there on behalf of needy people here in Wurzburg, Germany. The letter was sent to Mrs. Beebe, and she turned it over to me to reply to you direct.

We certainly appreciate your interest in wishing to help in connection with this project, and it is my hope in writing to you that perhaps the Minneapolis Chapter can do something in the way of stimulating interest in the S.A.R. and other patriotic organizations, and possibly also in churches in Minneapolis.

Wurzburg, before the war, was a city of over 100,000 population, although at the present time the population is probably in the neighborhood of 75,000 due to the fact that so much of the housing was destroyed. Wurzburg suffered as much destruction as any city in Germany, and in the business district the area was almost completely demolished. The Burgermeister claims 100% destruction, but actually it would run about 95%. Also, 75% of the housing was destroyed. People are living in cellars, attics, caves, or any other place where they can find shelter from the weather. Thousands of the former residents are living in other communities because they can find no place to stay in their home city.

Since the population of Faribault is roughly 15,000, the people of that city are unable to provide for the needs of as large a community as Wurzburg, although their contributions have been splendid. I don't know how many tons of supplies have been shipped here from Faribault, but I do know that thousands of people have been supplied with complete outfits of clothing.

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Mr. Allyn K. Ford

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20 July 1949

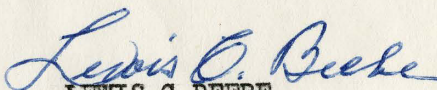
I am enclosing herewith for your information a post-card picture of the central district of Wurzburg, which shows the extent of destruction, a picture of one of the workrooms of the ladies organization which is handling relief, and a couple of pictures which show the conditions under which Wurzburg people are living. I am also sending clippings taken from Wurzburg and other papers, which show some of the publicity which has been given from the German press.

Anything which can be done by the Minneapolis Chapter or the Minnesota Society or any other organization will be greatly appreciated. With the coming of the Christmas season, for which we must plan many months in advance, any gifts of toys for children would be a big help, as otherwise the German children of the poorer families would be entirely without any Christmas celebration. Last year we took care of about 6,500 children in the Wurzburg community. This year, we hope to do even better.

As you doubtless know, we are trying to teach democracy to these people by practical example, and it is much better to inculcate proper ideas in the youth of the country than to attempt to change over the rather set views of the older generation. I think we have been quite successful here in Wurzburg in teaching these people that the Americans have no grudge against them, and that we are willing to do everything we can to help them back to a normal state of life. It is by such means that we can best hold people to democratic principles and fight off the inroads of communism.

Again I deeply appreciate your interest in this project, and both Mrs. Beebe and I will be grateful for any assistance which you are able to give. I will be back in the United States probably in October, 1950, and soon thereafter expect to retire and live in Faribault and participate in the meetings of the S.A.R. in Minneapolis.

Cordially yours,


LEWIS C BEEBE

Brigadier General, U S Army
Commanding