

WW1

Fact Sheet 1B

Germany



It is difficult to know exactly what happened during WW1 as a lot of the records were lost during the bombing in WW2. Some information about what happened during this time comes from the German version of the Salvation Army newspaper - *Die Kriegsruf*. Most of the German men were called up straight away to join the armed forces, so Die Heilsarmee members had war duties to do as well as humanitarian aid. Die Heilsarmee was not then recognised as a religious group.

Home Visits

A War Assistance League was set up which gave comfort, information and advice to relatives. It was originally just Salvationists, but other members of the public also became involved. A League of Helpers was set up to visit the sick and to visit wives and widows.

Homes and Hostels

Homes were set up for young men and for young women as a lot of people travelled because of war work and were away from home.

Clothes for Servicemen

Knitting and sewing classes were formed to make clothes for the servicemen.

Parcels

Parcels were sent to soldiers.

Public Kitchens

Meals were made and given away to help feed the poor and the hungry. This practice continued long after the war.

Buildings

Some Heilsarmee buildings were used during the war for hospitals and shelters.

Crèches

Nurseries were set up to care for young children as a lot of parents were either serving in the armed forces or were involved in the war effort - in the factories.

Music Festivals

Music festivals were held for wounded soldiers.



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Point to Note - When General Bramwell Booth met with the main leader of Die Heilsarmee at a conference in 1916, they had a discussion about the aid each country had been doing. Notes based on their conversation suggest that both countries were carrying out very similar war aid.

This similarity is because of The Salvation Army's belief in evangelism, practical compassion and political neutrality. As Bramwell Booth said, 'All lands are my Father's.'



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