

Operation Stork, Berlin, Winter 1945 - Operation Stork saw the temporary movement of children to the British Sector of Germany where there were better food supplies.



PACIFISM UNDER TEST

Experiences of the Friends Ambulance Unit and the Friends Relief Service in World War Two

The DVD in this pack contains extracts from interviews with former members of the Friends Ambulance Unit and the Friends Relief Service who served in the UK, mainland Europe, North Africa and China during World War Two.

The DVD is organised into themes which are listed below. These themes are then expanded where some of the interviewees speak about particular aspects of their work.

Contents

- What made me a Conscientious Objector Tribunal
- Challenges to my pacifism
- UK Work – Hospitals and Bomb Shelters
- Human Guinea Pigs
- Story of Roald
- Ambulance work abroad
- Taken Prisoner of War
- Work with Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Auschwitz survivors
- English Clerics and German Pastors

There is a menu on the DVD from which you can choose either to watch a particular film theme or the whole DVD which runs for over two hours. Select to view subtitles via the subtitle button on your remote control.

These recordings were made from 2012-2017. The interviews and recordings were carried out by QSMT Trustees, John Babb, Clare Collins, Paula Knight and Helen Lockwood. John Babb edited and prepared the film extracts for production by Breaking Barriers Community Arts.

Background

In 2012, Trustees from the Quaker Service Memorial Trust (QSMT) started to film and record interviews with former members of the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and Friends Relief Service (FRS) who had served in these organisations during World War Two.

Initially the interviews were with people known by individual Trustees. This oral history project grew as more former FAU and FRS members became known to QSMT. This followed the Quaker Service Memorial inauguration at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, via Britain Yearly Meeting and through our website.

The former members of the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and the Friends Relief Service (FRS) who are featured in this DVD served mostly in the UK, mainland Europe and North Africa. A separate DVD of the experiences of those members of the FAU who served with the China Convoy will be available in 2019/20.

The following interviewees feature in this DVD.

Helen Adamson, Ralph Arnold, Michael Barratt Brown, Brian Bone, John Corsellis, Owen Hardwicke, Arthur Hinton, Stanley Holland, David Hughes, Islwyn Lake, Angela Sinclair Loutit, Hugh Maw, Brian Meara, David Morris, Peter Rutter, Donald Saunders, Leslie Steed, Jean Stephens.

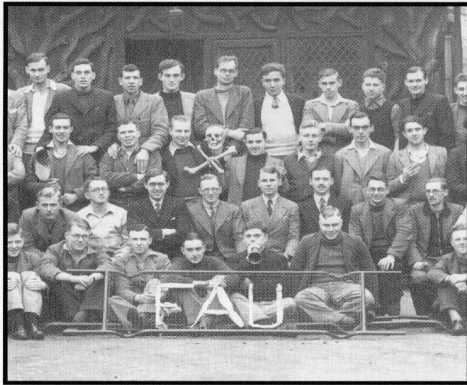
Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU)

The Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) was formed in the First World War and then disbanded when the war ended. In 1939, at the outbreak of World War Two, it was re established and the first training camp started in September at Manor Farm, Birmingham.

The FAU provided opportunities for service by conscientious objectors under an independent Quaker council. There were 1200 members of the FAU, both men and women. The majority were not Quakers. In the UK they worked in bombed out areas and hospitals and centres for displaced people.

They worked in all theatres of war, mainly on or near the front line working with military and civilian casualties. In the course of the war seventeen members of the FAU lost their lives.

FAU training camp, Manor Farm, Northfield



Friends Relief Service (FRS)

The Friends Relief Service (FRS) was an official arm of British Quakers and was open to those who offered service as pacifists as well as registered conscientious objectors. There were 1400 members of the FRS, both women and men.

The FRS worked alongside the FAU in the UK, relieving civilian distress from bombing and evacuation. From 1944 onwards it became possible to expand their work into mainland Europe.

By June 1945 the FRS was in various locations in Germany working with former inmates of concentration camps and many other displaced people. An FRS team was among the first civilians to enter Bergen Belsen concentration camp after its liberation.

FRS team in Germany



FAU Hadfield Spears Team, North Africa



Friends Relief Service in Holland delivering cod liver oil



FAU Hadfield Spears Team, North Africa

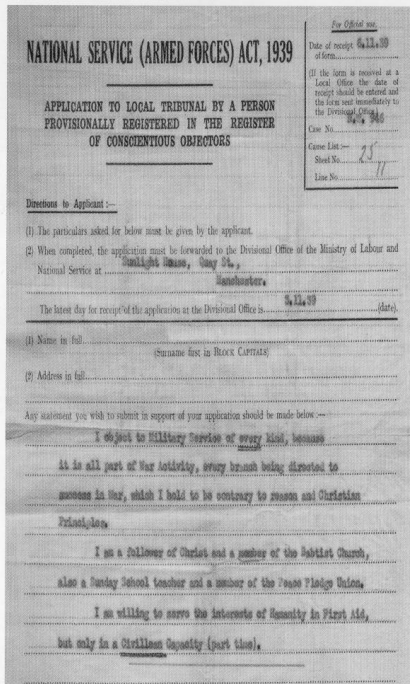


Friends Relief Service Team 124 en route to Europe



Conscientious Objection in World War Two

The National Service (Armed Forces) Act of 1939 allowed people to register provisionally as a Conscientious Objector (CO). Each person on the CO register had to appear before a Tribunal where they were questioned about their registration and grounds for exemption from military service. The outcome of the Tribunal determined the conditions of their registration until the end of the war and the type of work which would be undertaken.



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Further reading and information

Our website www.qsmt.org.uk has further information and resources about this project and how the DVD may be used including suggestions for study sessions.

Archives

The archives of the FAU and FRS are held at the Library of the Society of Friends, London

Literature

A Tegla Davies, *The Friends Ambulance Unit, 1939-46* (Allen and Unwin) 1947

Roger Wilson, *Quaker Relief*. London: Allen and Unwin. 1952

Lyn Smith, *Pacifists in Action*, William Sessions, York, 1998

Jenny Carson, (2009). *The Friends Relief Service - Faith Into Action: Humanitarian Assistance to Displaced Persons Camps in Germany, 1945-1948*. University of Manchester. (PhD thesis)

Website

More information about the Friends Ambulance Unit and the Friends Relief Service can be found at www.quakersintheworld.org

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Acknowledgements

The Quaker Service Memorial Trustees thank all the former members of the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service who took part in these interviews, recalling their experiences in the UK, mainland Europe, North Africa and China.

Trustees would also like to thank the families of former members of the FAU & FRS, together with the individuals and organisations who have supported the work of the Trust both with materials, time and financial donations.

QSMT Trustees are grateful to the late Olive Peet for permission to use extracts from her husband Stephen Peet's World War Two film "FAU-The Unit"

We are also grateful to Libby Adams, Melissa Atkinson and their colleagues at Friends House Library, London for their support and advice.



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FAU Mobile Ambulance Unit, North Africa

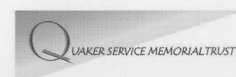
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