

## NUTRITION

# Milk For Babies Crucial In Europe's Food Problem

## American Red Cross Waiting Possible Arrangements To Ship Vital Supplies Through Britain's Blockade

**P**ROVIDING milk for small children to drink is a major worry in Europe's food dilemma.

The American Red Cross, taking note of the plea of the French government at Vichy, that milk for children is the most urgent relief need, is awaiting arrangements that would make it possible to ship supplies through British blockade.

Two trainloads of food for children purchased in Switzerland by Red Cross officials have recently gone to Paris and Vichy. The trainload to Vichy, which included quantities of condensed milk and dried milk and other baby foods, reached there in July and had already been distributed in unoccupied France when the Petain government's plea for more was issued. The trainload destined for children in German-occupied France, in Paris and vicinity only, arrived Aug. 7.

Relief officials in Europe have sent word that they would like milk shipments to run approximately 70% condensed milk, 20% unsweetened evaporated milk; and 10% powdered milk.

The Red Cross relief ship McKeesport succeeded in getting 15,000 cases of canned evaporated milk and 200 cases of baby food to unoccupied France in July and also 1,800 cases of molasses and 400 cases of dark corn syrup, useful in baby feeding formulas.

Nutritionists estimate that one case of this evaporated milk would provide one child with a fair ration of milk for two months. This would be at the rate of drinking nearly a pint and a half a day.

To England, American Red Cross shipments recently sent or booked include 44,000 cases of evaporated milk, and 25,000 pounds of dried milk. It is estimated that 500,000 people are evacu-

ated from their homes in Great Britain, and Britain is sheltering 100,000 refugees from other countries.

No comprehensive figures reveal the fate of dairy herds in European countries. In the United Kingdom dairy cattle have been increased as a wartime food measure, and dairy farmers have been given priority in use of feed. Yet reports this summer have indicated that milk production has been falling off, probably the result of short rations for cattle.

Denmark, whose dairy herds are noted for milk production, is recently reported as making ready to ship 10,000 live cattle to Germany. Denmark, like other invaded countries, is hard pressed to feed its herds. Slaughter of cattle is believed to be large in Europe this summer. In the World War, agricultural economists recall, European cattle were reduced about 8% through four years of war, Belgium being the land worst hit in this respect, with loss of one-third of its cattle.

*Science News Letter, August 24, 1940*

A trend toward lighter weight *bottles* is noted in the glass industry.

## HISTORY

# Ancient Blitzkriegers Always Left Their Victims to Starve

**I**F NAZIS want to steal food from invaded neutrals and other trampled countries, leaving masses of people to grapple with hunger, they can find plenty of precedent from darkest chapters of human history.

Standard technique of conquerors in ancient times was to thoroughly pillage a land, said Dr. Waldo H. Dubberstein of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, in response to a Science Service inquiry. A conqueror, he added, would then leave those inhabitants fortunate enough to escape with their lives, and not enslaved, to shift for themselves until the next harvest.

As recently reported, one Nazi commentator asked derisively: "Now, who in the world ever expected a victor to provide his enemies or former enemies with food?" This echoes prevailing sentiments of Assyrian and other ancient blitzkriegers, hundreds of whose exploits bear out this viewpoint.

"I believe it may be generally assumed that ancient peoples and conquering na-

tions never recognized a responsibility of providing even a minimum of food for conquered nations," Dr. Dubberstein finds.

Typical of kings engaged in imperial conquest 3,000 years ago is this boast of Assyrian Tiglath-Peleser I:

"I conquered the land of Kutmuhi in its length and breadth. Their booty, their goods, and their possessions I brought out. I burned their cities with fire, I devastated, I destroyed."

Assyrian King Assurnasirpal of the ninth century B. C. similarly went on record as to his tactics, adding:

"All the men who had fled from before my arms came down and embraced my feet, and I imposed enforced labor on them."

Egyptian records of conquest show the same disregard for the immediate or more remote future of conquered nations, says Dr. Dubberstein. Egypt's greatest militarist monarch, Thutmose III, in the fifteenth century B. C. even ordered the fields of the fertile Megid-

### "461 TIMELY PICTOGRAPHS"

The TELEFACTS you frequently see in SCIENCE NEWS LETTER have been collected in a 154-page booklet, indexed and conveniently arranged for reading or clipping.

Teachers mount these charts on 3" x 5" cards for classroom study. They tell at a glance facts that ordinarily would require hundreds of words of explanation.

Authors and magazine and newspaper editors use TELEFACTS to illustrate books, editorials and special articles on social and economic subjects.

Price \$2.00. For description and special rates for republication privileges write to

### SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

2101 Constitution Ave.

Washington, D. C.