



HOME TOWN FOR THE HOMELESS

FOR twenty years Richborough Camp in Kent, which housed the men of Kitchener's and Haig's British Armies up to 1918, has been empty. Battered by the weather, with weeds growing through the floors and roofs collapsing, this great group of huts seemed derelict and doomed to decay. But to-day the Camp is again the scene of ceaseless activity, for it is the home of over 3,500 Jewish and other exiles, fugitives from Nazi terror, men seeking sanctuary in a peaceful democratic state.

Here among country lanes, close to Ramsgate and Sandwich, these exiles, Jews and Christians together, have founded a community based on the freedom of the land which gives them shelter.

The Camp has grown from an emergency home for 300 refugees into an independent town now containing over 3,500 people.



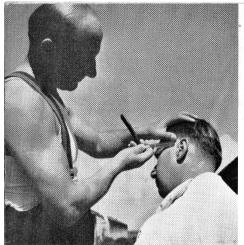
This town has its own post office and telephone switchboard, with a competent staff for sorting letters and dealing with the business of the department.



The hospital is controlled by two doctors, eminent men in their homeland, with a first-aid station for dealing with casualties. A concert hall, cinema, watch-maker's shop and a photographic store are other amenities.



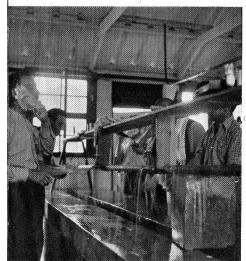
The accountant, chief registrar, chief of the overscas department, leave officers, billet officers and work organisers complete the administrative staff. In their offices, financial matters are managed and pocket money paid out.



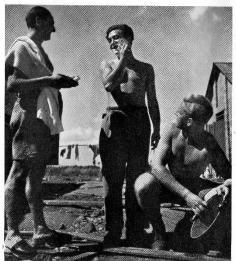
Early morning brings "customers" to Richborough's barber. His shop is his pride, but he is quite ready to do his business in the open-air for customers who wish to make the most of the sunshine.



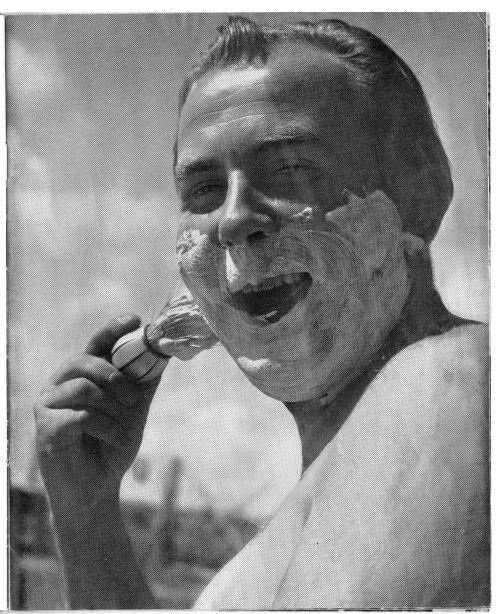
Many of the exiles, of course, prefer to shave themselves. But even these seem to enjoy the novelty of camp life in being able to shave out of doors, although the Authorities have made every effort to provide home comforts.



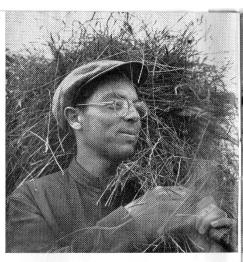
No baths were available when the huts were taken over, but two of them have been completely equipped with wash-basin and more than eighty hot and cold showers. They have the efficiency of well-run Turkish baths.



Most of the Camp news is passed from hut to hut when the men assemble at the bathrooms or gossip during the daily shave in the open.







They find Happiness

Every man in the Camp has a job. There are representatives of more than 30 different trades and professions, including doctors, architects, engineers, dentists, lawyers, electricians, clerks, bricklayers, and business men. Between them they are rebuilding and maintaining the Camp and its services.

Their day begins at 6.30. They take breakfast at 7, and work from 8 to 5.30, with a break for lunch at 12.30. After working



in their new Work

hours they are free to leave the Camp at will, but must return at $10\ \mathrm{p.m.}$ for roll-call.

Only pay they receive is sixpence a week for pocket money. The refugees remain at the Camp until they are fitted for a trade. After that they become emigrants to United States and British Empire centres.

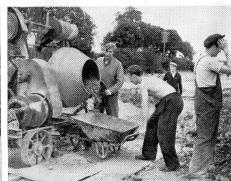




Plenty of work is found for the bootmakers in the Camp's bootrepairing shop.



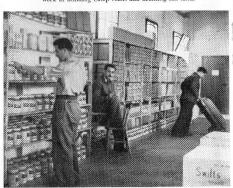
Others, kept busy in the gardens, supply the Camp kitchen with vegetables.



Both skilled and unskilled men are given opportunities for useful work in building Camp roads and draining the land.



—And many used to town life are preparing for emigration to agricultural areas in many parts of the world.



The stores which provide for thousands of meals daily.

WHERE EVERY MAN HAS A JOB



These bookbinders are learning a new trade while they do duties as part of the organisation.



The carpenters are great craftsmen in the Camp. They never do shoddy work.



Poultry-keepers learning to take their places in agricultural communities supply eggs to the Camp store.



Thorough agricultural instructions are provided for those who have chosen to become land workers.



Repairing and maintaining the building of the camp has kept hundreds busy since the Camp was founded.



The tailor's shop is another of the Camp's "industries" in which idle hands are once again employed usefully.





NEW FOUND FREEDOM

Facing the future with renewed confidence and hope the community at Richborough are rapidly absorbing the habits and customs of the people who have given them sanctuary. After the day's toil the men attend classes at which English is taught. A gramophone is used to help with the teaching of pronunciation. The camp director insists that everyone shall learn to speak the language that will soon become his own.







Two thousand pounds of potatoes, 124 pounds of porridge, 180 pounds of margarine, 200 pounds of jam, 3 hundredweight of sugar, 700 pounds of meat, 420 pints of milk and 1,800 pounds of bread are used in the meals served every day in the dining hall of the camp. Breakfast consists of

porridge and tea, coffee or cocoa; dinner of soup, meat, potatoes, vegetables and pudding; supper of bread, margarine and eggs. The food bill alone totals $\pounds25,000$ a year. The daily cost is $\$\frac{1}{2}d$, for each man. Part of the £10,000 spent to equip the camp was used for the purchase of 6,000 plates,



to the Cookhouse Door

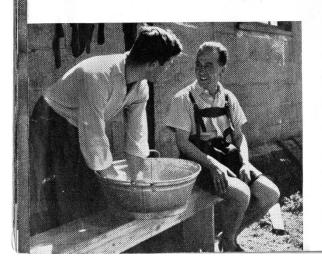
3,000 mugs and the cutlery necessary for completing the table-ware.

The food is cooked in kitchens once used by the Kitchener and Haig armies, and stoves which were used during the last War are still in operation in the kitchens.

The food is supplied from a store which is kept with meticulous efficiency by a man who was at one time the buyer for a large Viennese industrial organisation (See Picture 23 also).







HELPING THE _TO HELP

ALTHOUGH most of the services at Richborough are organised on a communal basis, each man has to manage many things for himself. Laundry is a personal matter. The men have even learned, with the help and advice of the tailors at the camp, to do their own mending and darning.

Minor injuries, which in other days were

EXILES- THEMSELVES

attended to at the family medicine chest, now receive more expert attention.

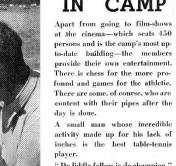
There are sixty doctors in the camp; many of them were famous specialists in Vienna, Munich and Berlin. Only two of them actually practise medicine or surgery in the camp. None of course works for fees or money of any kind. The others sweep the floors, work in the garden and on the roads and give help wherever it is needed most.





"De Liddle Fellow Wins"

PLAYTIME IN CAMP

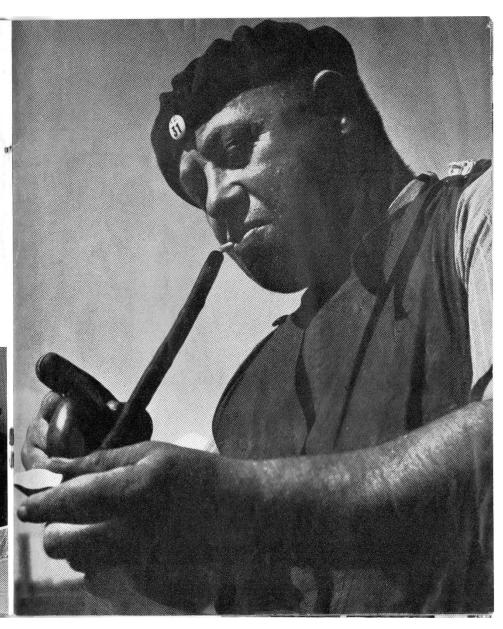


A small man whose incredible activity made up for his lack of inches is the best table-tennis

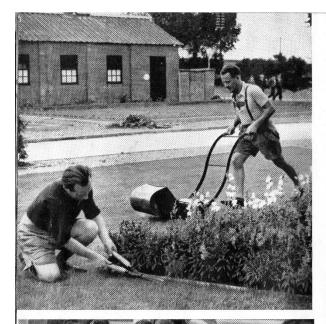
"De liddle fellow is de champion," say his supporters with whom he shares a hut.

There is a canteen which serves cigarettes, fruit and sweets and soft drinks in the table-tennis hall. Nowhere do you see a sad or bitter







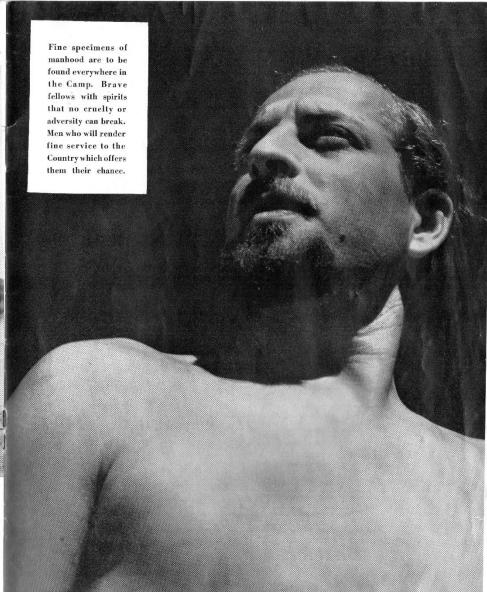




WHEN WORK IS DONE



Flower beds and lawns are already replacing the weed-grown wilderness round the huts as a result of the work some of the refugees have done during their leisure hours. With many gardening is a hobby and recreation. The writing room is always crowded with men who keep constantly in touch by letter with their tragically scattered families.



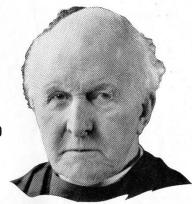
THE PRIMATE OF ALL ENGLAND

visited this,

THE KITCHENER CAMP

Richborough, Kent

and, in the course of an address, said:



"FIFTY years ago I spent two summers in Gottingen University. I studied German literature, listened to German music, and shared the life of a German University. I think of the kindly German homes in which I moved, of the many German friends I made—and that increased my desire that, when that great country is set free from its present rulers and is healed of the disease with which they have infected it, it may return to its rightful place among the nations of the world. "I am proud that this country has had the honour of being able to give you a place of refuge and of hope, and I hope that even now you are having some share in that freedom of faith, of conscience, and of life which is the greatest treasure of the English people.

"I hope that this country may have the help of the service which you would all be willing to render at this time to this country's need when it has no other wish in this war than to rid your country and the world of a tyranny which has too long been allowed to lie upon it. It will be a great thing when we in this country can look upon you not only as refugees whom we have been glad to welcome, but also as fellow-workers in a common cause in which we can all join. That is my hope."



"-And So To Bed"

THERE are 50 huts used as sleeping quarters in the Camp, in which over 3,500 men are accommodated in parties of seventy-two. Each hut elects a leader, who is responsible for the discipline, cleanliness and smartness of his men.

The Camp is run on English lines, in spirit as well as practice. There is no place here for barbed wire or the armed guards of the concentration camp. The refugees themselves elect their own police, who patrol the camp wearing red armlets. The good sense and instinctive discipline which the men maintain amongst themselves is demonstrated by the fact that the worst misdemeanours since February, when the Camp opened, was a charge against two men for overstaying their leave.

No one who has seen this Camp, which demonstrates the energy, initiative and skill of its inhabitants, can doubt that wherever these men go they must, with their extraordinary will to work and constructive ability, create a new life for themselves—and in so doing create new work and a broader life for their neighbours.

