



Field Service welcome in Germany: Better than ambulances

## A Fair Exchange

In mid-July, these postwar days, Atlantic liners seem almost as jammed with students as the nation's classrooms. Last week, some 20,000 young Americans were en route to European shores, dispatched with the blessings of at least 40 organizations. There were 300 young Experimenters in International Living, 200 Youth Hostellers, and approximately 100 student Quakers. The World Council of Churches was sending more than 100. So were the YMCA, the YWCA, and the National 4-H Clubs.

Of all the programs, the most ambitious was that of the American Field Service. This year, the AFS is transporting more than 600 students to live with families in 13 Western European countries. Teen-agers all, they are receiving as much care as the Field Service ever expended on its wartime ambulances. Through the summer, it will maintain constant communication with the travelers and their "families."

One of this year's travelers, Paul Knoll, a 17-year-old from an Oregon City, Ore., high school, began receiving advice as early as last March. The injunctions laid upon him by the Field Service covered everything from "loud shirts" (leave them home) to orange juice (don't expect to be awakened with it). In addition, young Knoll was urged to acquire at least a few words of German for his summer in Bruchsal, as well as a sound grasp of American foreign policy.

The AFS's rules are based on long experience with exchange programs. After it garaged its last ambulance at the end of the first world war, it sponsored an exchange of French and American university students. The program was

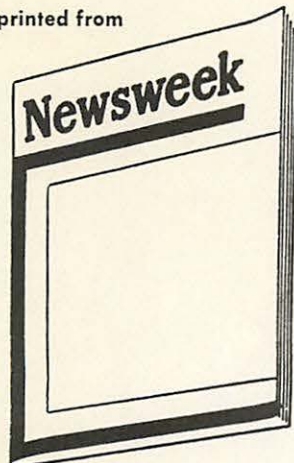
successful, but the Field Service was mildly dissatisfied. College-level scholars perforce spent their time in libraries and classrooms. As an organization dedicated to the goal of world peace through the encouragement of friendly contact among nations, the AFS wanted something more.

**Enthusiasm:** After the second world war, Stephen Galatti, the Field Service's director general, experimentally transported a few European teen-agers to the U.S. for a year of study. That program, from the AFS's viewpoint, was an instant success. Last year, with some government help, the service brought 465 teen-agers from eighteen countries to America. Most heartening to Galatti was the returning Europeans' suggestion for summer trips by young Americans. When he began sending them abroad, in 1950, many of the Europeans volunteered to track down families to serve as hosts.

For their part, European adults seem delighted with the American visitors. All the host families are volunteers receiving no money for room and board. Last week, when Paul Knoll and his fellow students arrived in Bremerhaven aboard the Arosa Kulm, the city demonstrated its enthusiasm. Bremen voted some \$2,400 to lodge and fete the 335 who will spend the summer in Germany. The Bremen Senate invited all hands to a candlelight dinner in the "Alte Halle."

There, the youngsters demonstrated they had taken to heart the Field Service's lessons in adaptability. The menu consisted of hash, pickled cucumbers, herring, and fried eggs. Public student reaction: "Wonderful." In New York, director general Galatti beamed. "These kids," he said, "are going to be people of influence some day."

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