

A U S T R I A

According to the report of Mr. Branton, our work in Austria showed even more improvement and a great increase for the third quarter of 1947.

ORT started its work in Austria after Dr. D. Lvovitch signed an agreement with UNRRA on December 15th, 1946. The first director of ORT in Austria was Mrs. Sylvia Margulies, former director of ORT in the U.S. Zone of Germany. Engineer D. Steward moved from Munich and became director of the U.S. Zone in Austria. The French engineers Kreisel and Chemelevsky were engaged as inspectors of Salzburg and Linz districts, and Lt. H. Branton (U.S. Army), former Austrian, became the deputy-director of ORT in Austria in July. Mrs. Rae Harris, former president of the Women's American ORT, volunteered her services for the Vienna district.

As is known, in the very beginning our work was concentrated in central schools before going to DP camps. To the schools in Salzburg, Linz and courses in Vienna we have in addition schools in Hof Gastein, totalling 17 courses. In August we employed 50 instructors, 26 administrative personnel, and had 374 pupils in Salzburg schools under the following classifications:

Machine Shop	21	Dressmaking	99
Automechanics	12	Corset-making	14
Electro-engineering	68	Millinery	11
Radiotechnics	28	Dental mechanics	16
Carpentry	20	Locksmithing	13
Cutting (men)	34	Nursing	20
Cutting (women)	18		

We expanded in the following places:

VIENNA		SALZBURG		HOF GASTEIN		HALLEIN		LINZ		BINDERMICHL		EBELSBERG	
(2)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
- Jan.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Feb.	-	100	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 Mar.	38	110	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Apr.	43	212	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 May	40	199	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 June	40	199	14	-	-	-	-	131	15	-	-	-	-
14 July	40	174	14	-	-	-	-	140	12	-	-	-	-
14 Aug.	39	140	14	19	10	-	-	99	12	-	-	-	-
14 Sep.	100	198	14	19	10	52	4	156	12	20	2	43	13
54* Oct.	340	217	14	-	-	91	3	183	12	27	2	205	13

Total number of pupils: 1082

(1) = pupils

(2) = instructors

* = professors and teachers giving hourly lessons.

The great increase in the Vienna ORT school is due to new refugees infiltrating from Roumania. They are being taken care of in so-called transit camps and are not supposed to stay in the city for any considerable amount of time. This fact led us to make arrangements with the camp management, the

Central Committee and the A.J.D.C. to ensure that ORT students should stay as long as it was necessary for their graduation. The camp management did frequently not understand that it was of advantage for the education of the Jewish population at present in Vienna to use the brains and facilities this city has to offer, and at the start of the courses the fluctuation of the pupils was considerable, due to the steady movement of people and lack of feeling of stability. In order to establish better cooperation, the Vienna Central Office arranged for a screening procedure for ORT pupils to eliminate the undesirable elements so that only those who were really willing to learn should remain in our courses.

The Vienna pupils had to be given tram tickets to get them to and from the courses because of the long distances of the schools from the camps.

Due to the untiring efforts of the Vienna ORT Committee, especially of its Acting President, Hofrat Landesschulinspektor Feiertag, we succeeded in establishing 8 new courses to the 5 already running. A staff of 54 professional instructors employed in the technical high schools and colleges of the city are in charge of these courses which are administered by the office of the Vienna ORT school administration. The following courses are now running in these vocational high-school buildings, which are equipped with the best training workshops to be found in Central Europe:

Auto mechanics	Course I	14 pupils
	" II	32 "
	" III	14 "
Radiotechnics	" I	11 "
	" II	16 "
Electro-engineering	" I	42 "
Dental mechanics	" I	36 "
Dressmaking	" I	38 "
	" II	35 "
Lingerie	" I	34 "
	" II	21 "
	" III	20 "
Cosmetics & Hairdressing		27 "
T o t a l		340 pupils

An important event in the life of ORT in Austria was the first graduation of 94 pupils of the Salzburg school, at which celebration were present representatives of the U.S. Military Government, the Austrian Ministry, IRO, the Central Committee, and all Jewish organisations, who praised very highly the ORT work in Austria and complimented ORT on having achieved such progress in such a short time. Mr. Douglas Steward, who was chiefly responsible for Salzburg school, was chairman of the occasion, and Mr. Branton and Mrs. R. Harris, director of the Vienna area, represented ORT. Greetings from Dr. D. Lvovitch and Mrs. C. Margulies, first director, were warmly received.

During the months of August and September we issued the first diplomas to pupils who finished their training. Graduation exercises were held in:

Salzburg Central School	94 pupils
Hof Gastein DP Hospital	19 nurses-aids
Linz Central School	54 pupils

The examinations at the end of our courses proved the satisfactory standard of our work. Commendations from the examination boards composed of members of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and experts from State Vocational Training Schools characterized the teaching methods and final results of ORT training as "excellent and of high pedagogical standard".

Due to the support of the Central Supply Office in Munich, our transportation facilities were very much improved. Five vehicles are operating in Austria and take care of a steady flow of machinery and expendable supplies.

The month of October has brought us to a point where our expansion has to be solidified. The morale in the schools is high. Instructors and pupils are aware of our increased ability for vocational education, and a movement spreads in the DP and refugee camps to enroll for training in our schools. The number of applicants is greater than our current possibility of absorption.

In Vienna alone there were 556 new applicants, of whom during the month of October only 340 could be taken care of. A similar picture exists also in the U.S. Zone of Austria.

Before thinking of further expansion we shall have to coordinate facilities, supplies, transportation and teaching staff with the number of pupils that we can accommodate. Otherwise there will be a danger that the quality of our work declines in favour of quantities only poorly trained. However, we do not intend to abandon the idea of further expansion. Even at present we are trying to establish two new schools in the French Zone of Austria, one in Bregenz and one in Innsbruck. The first sets of equipment for the French Zone will be put at our disposal shortly. The President of the Comité Israélite in Bregenz, Mr. Grossbord, visited the Central Office in Vienna and inquired about the progress of the preparations for establishing courses in Bregenz. He was given a full account.

In the same proportion as the American Zone in Germany, Austria received machines and instruments particularly from Switzerland, and improved transport considerably. Since transport is one of the most important factors of work, the Vienna ORT was supplied with one "Renault", the Salzburg school with one "Austin" and one "Citroen", and we expect in the near future to have a G.M.C. truck and another passenger car for the Linz area.

In October, 1,082 pupils were registered. If one adds 167 graduates, there have been a total of 1,249 trainees up to the month of October. We can therefore reasonably expect that by the end of 1947 we should have together with the French Zone over 2,000 trainees in ORT schools in Austria.