

# Reports Tell of Saints in Europe

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Chemnitz and other places and there they are finding help from other members. Buildings have been obtained. The stock of stored clothing and food is being used to take care of those who have nothing. In one house you may find a dozen families living cooperatively. In many ways it is a carry back to the early days of the church when the saints suffered so much and were driven closer together by the suffering."

## WEST GERMAN MISSION

THE report brought back by Elder McKay contained the following in the words of Anton Huck, acting president of the West German Missions summarizing the Church activities as follows:

"The most terrible of all wars is now over and the German people are adapting themselves to the new conditions. The dreadful sufferings that our people had to bear during the war are indescribable. The most horrible part of all was the bombing. The food situation at the present time, especially in the large cities, is catastrophic. According to confirmed medical statistics, 95 per cent of all causes of death are the result of undernourishment.

"The condition of the Mission, spiritually as well as financially, can be characterized as being very good. Although many members were evacuated from their branches, they have held fast to the law of tithing and have been active in spreading the true gospel in their new places of residence.

"The semi-yearly district conferences have been carried out with enthusiasm and with excellent success. Besides, the district presidents met from time to time for deliberations in solving important questions and problems. As a result, there has been a wonderful spirit of cooperation in all matters. Also a meeting of the district leaders of the Relief Society, the first of its kind ever held here, was carried through with marked success, and it will remain a pleasant memory in the minds of the sisters.

"Nearly all branch meeting-houses have been destroyed by bombings, and usually with all inventories. Meetings are being held in the homes of the brothers and sisters; in some places also in newly rented rooms. In Munich even the Methodist Church is being utilized. In Frankfurt, church is held in the rooms previously used as the missionary dining room. The reception room, separated by a sliding door, is also used so that 100 people can be accommodated. Often we have the pleasure of visits by former missionaries. The magnificent house in which our local meeting hall was located has been completely destroyed and with it all of our inventory including the paintings, 'The Confirming of the Priesthood upon Joseph Smith' and 'Oliver Cowdery by John the Baptist,' painted by Johannes Hell of Frankfurt.

"The large house in which the Mission Home is situated, still stands. Although all windows and doors were damaged, we are thankful to God that he heard the supplications of the Saints who prayed for its safety. Neither my wife nor I ever went into the air raid shelter without first going on our knees in earnest prayer, not only to ask for our own preservation, but also for that of the Mission Home from which His commands should be sent. A lady once said to my wife, 'If this house remains standing, it will be a great boon to your Church.'

At present, four families are sheltered in the Mission Home. Three of them have lost all of their possessions. On October 4, 1943, the first heavy air attack on Frankfurt took place and the greater part of the city was destroyed.

"At this time, I was attending a conference in Vienna and when I returned on October 6, I found the house in which I lived, a heap of rubble. On the ruins was a sign which read, 'All occupants saved.' I went immediately to the Mission Home and found my wife there who described through her tears her miraculous escape. We thanked and praised God on our knees, and even though we had lost everything that we could call our own—and possess nothing now—we are grateful to our Father in Heaven for the wonderful deliverance.

"One day later, on October 7, a committee of three men appeared and asked how many homeless we could accommodate in the Mission Home. Sister Forster, (mission secretary) said 'Mr. Huck, the director of the mission, has lost everything and has taken shelter here. We cannot take care of anyone else.' The loss of my home and other possessions was thus the lesser evil, because if strangers had come into the Mission Home we would no longer have been our own masters and would always have had spies. Later we took in Brother and Sister Ciesielski and also Brother and Sister Strack in the upper rooms so that we now take care of 11 members of the Church in the home.

## CZECHOSLOVAK MISSION

THE letter to President Toronto from Joseph Roubicek said in part:

"I am fully convinced that you recognize our needs, and that you will help us in every respect, for at this time we have a most unusual opportunity to preach the Gospel. However, the general attitude here is very critical; the economic situation is very acute as you will be able to judge from the concrete information which I will give

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM L. WARNER, on his return from presiding over the Texas-Louisiana Mission is met in Salt Lake City by his wife and daughter, Martha Mae, who preceded him from the mission field and will now accompany him to their home in Richfield, Utah.

## Pres. Warner Returns From Texas-Louisiana Mission

"SOME of the most enjoyable work of our whole mission was our work with L. D. S. servicemen, stationed in our mission," declared President William L. Warner as he made his final report at Church headquarters in Salt Lake City this week following his release and return from the Texas-Louisiana Mission.

After more than four years as president of that mission President Warner relinquishes his guidance of the affairs there with the prayers and best wishes of the Saints and the many friends which he acquired during the period of his missionary labors.

During the past four years, hundreds of Mormon soldiers were entertained by President and Sister Warner at the mission home, which became home to them whenever they might be released from their duties at camp.

President Warner expressed appreciation for the work of the servicemen in the mission where they assisted as teachers and branch presidents, and their wives rendered much service in the Relief Societies. One branch is entirely manned by servicemen, the president said.

He told of the need for more and better meeting places and chapels. Campaigns have been conducted to raise funds for chapels with the result that funds have been secured and sites purchased toward the erection of thirteen chapels.

Fairly good progress has been made in the activities of the mission, the president declared, in spite of the restrictions of a nation at war. Local members proved to be a real strength when the missionaries left, he said, and the work of the Lord continued as before although in some areas lack of members of the Priesthood curtailed and hindered some activities.

President Glen H. Smith succeeds President Warner in the Texas-Louisiana Mission, and was introduced to his new labors and the Saints in the various districts by the retiring leader just prior to his departure. Both leaders were accompanied in their tour of the mission by Elder Charles A. Callis, of the Council of the Twelve, who recently returned from a three-weeks visit to the mission.

## Moon Lake Stake Appoints New Officers

AT the Moon Lake Stake correlation held at the Mount Emmons Ward, Sunday, November 18, the following stake officers were set apart:

As secretary of the stake Relief Society, Ardith Johanson; class leaders, Birdie R. Swasey, literature, and Alice Oman, social science.

As committeemen of the Aaronic Priesthood, Ola J. Jensen in charge of the priests, and Willis A. Potter in charge of the deacons.

As assistant to the stake superintendent of the Sunday School, Evan O. Bennion, Volney B. Boswell with Deane Case as secretary.

As stake chorister, Rita S. Hansen.

As stake correspondent to the Church News, Deane Case.



APPOINTED—Elder James L. Barker to preside over French Mission.

## Jas. L. Barker To Go To French Mission

THE appointment of Elder James L. Barker to become president of the French Mission and reopen missionary work in that nation, is announced this week by the First Presidency.

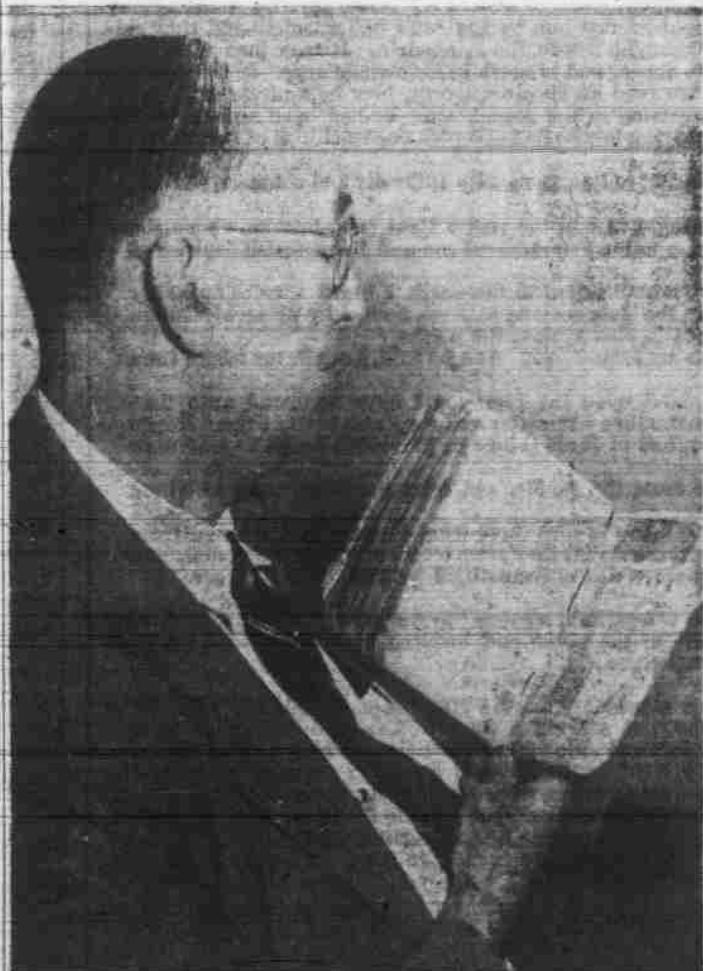
President Barker who is a member of the University of Utah Faculty, has been granted a leave of absence from that institution effective at the close of the winter quarter which will be about March 1. He expects to leave soon after that with Mrs. Barker to preside over the French Mission.

The couple returned in September, 1944, from nearly four years of presiding over the Argentina Mission in South America.

President Barker was recently reappointed a member of the Sunday School General Board which position he held prior to going to South America.

The new French mission president has spent a number of years in Europe as a missionary and student. He was sent as a missionary to Switzerland in 1901 staying until 1904. From that year until 1913 he spent a part of each year in Europe as a student and the last three years 1911 to 1913 he spent full time in Paris studying.

He speaks the French language fluently and is at present head of the modern language department of the University of Utah.



AN OLD COPY OF THE BIBLE bearing the date of 1592, was recently presented to the Desert Museum by WILLIAM B. CODLING. Inscription indicate that it was printed in London by John Windert, "for the assignees of Richard Daye."





## Editorial

### One Of Greatest Advocates Of Truth

DAY before yesterday marked the birthday anniversary of one of our greatest advocates of truth—President Heber J. Grant. His birthday fell on Thanksgiving Day this year, and appropriately too, for the Latter-day Saints everywhere may well thank the Lord for the strength and courage of President Grant.

Probably the outstanding trait of his life was his love for truth. He lived truth each hour of the day, his whole career reflected it. No one ever had any doubt as to President Grant's position. He always made himself clear, in his fearless and forceful, yet loving way. Sham and pretense had no place with him. All of his acts were open and above board.

One of the books he loved the most was "The Power of Truth" by William George Jordan. He had many passages marked in his copy of this volume. Frequently he marked these same passages in copies of this book which he distributed to some of his friends.

Because they are so much like President Grant's life and character, because they so well reflect his own thinking on the subject, we reproduce below a few of the paragraphs from this book, paragraphs which were marked with care in his own book, and to which he directed the attention of his friends when he presented a copy of them:

"Truth is the rock foundation of a great character. It is loyalty to the right as we see it, it is courageous living of our lives in harmony with our ideals; it is always—power."

"Truth ever defies full definition. Like electricity it can only be explained by noting its manifestation. It is the compass of the soul, the guardian of conscience, the final touchstone of right. Truth is the revelation of the ideal, but it is also an inspiration to realize that ideal, a constant impulse to live it."

"A man cannot truly believe in God without believing in the final inevitable triumph of Truth. If you have Truth on your side you can pass through the dark valley of slander, misrepresentation and abuse, undaunted, as though you wore a magic suit of mail that no bullet could enter, no arrow could pierce. You can hold your head high, toss it fearlessly and defiantly, look every man calmly and unflinchingly in the eye, as though you rode, a victorious king, returning at the head of your legions with banners waving and lances glistening, and bugles filling the air with music. You can feel the great expansive wave of moral health surging through you as the quickened blood courses through the body of him who is gladly, gloriously proud of physical health."

"You will know that all will come right in the end, that it MUST come, that error must flee before the great white light of truth, as darkness slinks away into nothingness in the presence of the sunburst. Then with Truth as your guide, your companion, your ally, and inspiration, you tingle with the consciousness of your kinship with the Infinite and all the petty trials, sorrows and sufferings of life fade away like temporary, harmless visions seen in a dream."

At one time when he was discussing truth and honesty, President Grant said this:

"The fundamental thing for a Latter-day Saint is to be honest. The fundamental thing for a Latter-day Saint is to value his word as faithfully as his bond; to make up his mind that under no circumstances, no matter how hard it may be, by and with the help of the Lord he will dedicate his life and his best energies to making good his promise."

Let us continue to honor the sacred memory of President Grant, by, among other things, learning to love the truth as he did.

### New Officers Named For Primary Hospital

#### Mrs. Howells Chosen As President

THE Primary Children's Hospital at Salt Lake City has new officers as a result of appointments made this week with the approval of the First Presidency.

They are:

Mrs. Adele Cannon Howells, general Primary president as the new president of the board of trustees.

Mrs. Frances G. Bennett of the general board as the new vice-president and acting superintendent.

Mrs. Lavern W. Parmley and Mrs. Dessie G. Boyle, counselors in the general presidency and Mrs. Mildred C. McKay of the general board as the members of the board of trustees.

Mary R. Jack is reappointed secretary and treasurer.

The reorganization of the hospital board came as a result of the resignation several weeks ago of May Anderson, former general superintendent of the Primary Association and president of the hospital board. Released also from the board was Mrs. Isabelle S. Ross, a former assistant general superintendent.

Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. McKay are former members of the board of trustees. Mrs. Howells has been in charge of hospital affairs as the vice-president of the board since the resignation of Miss Anderson last August.

The new hospital president assumes full duties of directing the Children's Hospital which is sponsored and financed by the Primary Association of the Church. She has been a counselor in the general Primary presidency since January, 1940, and was made president of that organization in July, 1943.

Mrs. Bennett, the new hospital vice-president was recently reappointed to the general board. She had served on the board for five years beginning in 1936. She now advances to the position of vice-president and assumes further duties as acting superintendent of the hospital.

Mrs. Parmley and Mrs. Boyle are the new appointees to the hospital board of trustees. They are members of the general presidency of the Primary.

Mrs. McKay has been a member of the Primary general

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ADELE C. HOWELLS



FRANCES G. BENNETT



LAVERN W. PARMLEY



DESSIE G. BOYLE



MILDRED C. MCKAY



MARY R. JACK

## Reports Tell of Saints in Europe

WITH improved communications letters coming from European countries to Church headquarters are more and more frequent and they tell a most interesting story of faith and devotion to the Church on the part of Latter-day Saints in these war-ravished lands. They carry also a note of distress over the lack of food and clothing and tell of heroic efforts on the part of some to help others in dire need.

For the purpose of bringing the most complete summary of

conditions in Europe now and during the war as relating to the Church and its members, we bring readers of the Church News Section a summary and excerpts from five different letters and reports. These are:

1. A letter from Max Zimmer, acting president of the Swiss Mission, addressed to Elder Thomas E. McKay, assistant to the Council of the Twelve.

2. A report from Richard Ranglack, acting president of the East German Mission.

3. A report from L. R. McKay of Salt Lake who recently returned from several months tour of parts of Germany on a special military assignment. Elder McKay is a son of President David O. McKay and a member of the University of Utah faculty.

4. A letter addressed to Wallace F. Toronto, former president of the Czechoslovak Mission from Josef Roubicek, acting mission president and coming from Prague under date of October 10.

5. A letter containing some pictures from Stuttgart, Germany, and sent by Willis Banks, a Latter-day Saint service man to President George Albert Smith at the request of local German leaders.

#### SWISS MISSION

Max Zimmer's letter was written in two parts, one dated September 23, and the second part dated October 26.

In the first part he tells of two fall conferences held on

preceding Sundays in Basel and Zurich. He writes:

"I am happy to report that they were very successful. . . . We had special programs on Saturday night with music, songs, recitations and two short speeches, and so also on Sunday with Priesthood and officers meetings and two public sessions. The attendance was over 700 in each place."

Continuing his report, he writes:

"After more than five years

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# Reports Tell of Saints in Europe

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of separation we are now again in contact with our members and friends in Mulhouse and Strasbourg, at least by correspondence. We exchange letters frequently and are now pretty well posted on conditions there. As yet we haven't been able to get permission to cross the border.

"From several letters received from Elder Paul Kayser, president of the Strasbourg branch and well acquainted with conditions in Mulhouse too, we have learned that the Saints in Alsace are well. They have suffered much in body and spirit, but nevertheless carried on in a most wonderful way. They even had a number of baptisms during the war. Meeting halls have been bombed and furniture destroyed or taken away by the Germans, but now these branches meet again in their Sunday Schools and Sacrament Services."

Then Brother Zimmer made a summary of activities during the past war years as follows:

"The mission board continued to hold its regular meetings as a rule twice a month. We were not always complete, because some of the brethren were at times in the military service or were engaged in air protection and other activities in connection with the war. The mission supervisor was himself a block-leader in the air protection service which took a considerable part of his time and his sleep. But in spite of these and other handicaps we carried on with our work trying to do our best to keep the branches going. I think I am justified in saying that the mission is in a good condition when one considers the many difficulties we had to overcome. Priesthood and auxiliaries are functioning fine. Tithes and fast offerings have increased. The 20 branches of the mission are all in fairly good shape, peace and harmony prevail and the Lord has blessed us beyond our worthiness.

"Although we have been spared from the actual hostilities, we too felt the bad, demoralizing influence of the war. We had to fight hard against it, especially to help our younger people to be true to the Church and live according to its teachings. Thanks to the blessings of our Heavenly Father we were able to solve most of our problems. The great majority of the Saints proved to be true to the faith."

In the second part of his letter, dated October 26, Brother Zimmer writes of other things, including visits of L. D. S. servicemen from Germany, the translation and preparation of additional Church books and pamphlets and of the sending back into Germany with these visiting servicemen of packages containing badly needed clothing and books. Food could not be sent because of the strict rationing in Switzerland. But of special interest is a paragraph from this second part of his letter which tells vividly some of the influences at work against the Church during these war years. He writes:

"I was called away from this letter before I could finish it, and not wanting to send it off unfinished I held it back, and now there is another month gone. In the meantime I got permission to visit our branches in Mulhouse and Strasbourg. I met Elders Paul and Andre Kayser and their families as also old Brother Wahrer in Mulhouse, and most of the other members in these two branches. They are all well and happy.

"Paul Kayser proved to be a real father to the Saints in Alsace. During the first two years after the occupation by the Germans he had a hard

time to preside over his branch, because some of the presiding brethren in the West German mission, under whom he was placed, were 100 per cent Nazis and tried to preach national Socialism instead of the Gospel of Jesus Christ when they visited his branch. The Saints were asked to pray for the "Fuehrer" in their meetings and in their homes and regard him as a divinely called man, who had to prepare the world for the United Order. A lot of foolish things must have been said by these brethren and the people did not always know where the Church stood in this matter. Many were under the impression that we as a Church were in favor of Nazism. Attempts were made to harmonize Hitlerism with the Church doctrines, even to prove that the Nazi party was organized after the pattern of our Church; the "Fuehrer" was like the president of the Church to whom we should owe blind obedience; the S. S. was compared to the Melchizedek and the S. A. to the Aaronic Priesthood, the Gauleiters to the stake presidents, the Kreis and Blockleiters to our branch teachers, etc. It was a good thing to have Brother Paul Kayser there, who could not be converted to Nazism, but, 'clinging to the rod of iron' he finally succeeded and the brethren let him alone and he ran his branch after the old order of things."

## EAST GERMAN MISSION

The report from President Ranglack of the East German Mission states that there are at present in the mission: 12 districts, 65 branches, 221 Elders, 410 members of the Aaronic Priesthood, and 7,610 members including the priesthood. During the war years there was an average of 60 baptisms per year and 50 blessings of children per year. He reports four missionaries at present working in the mission.

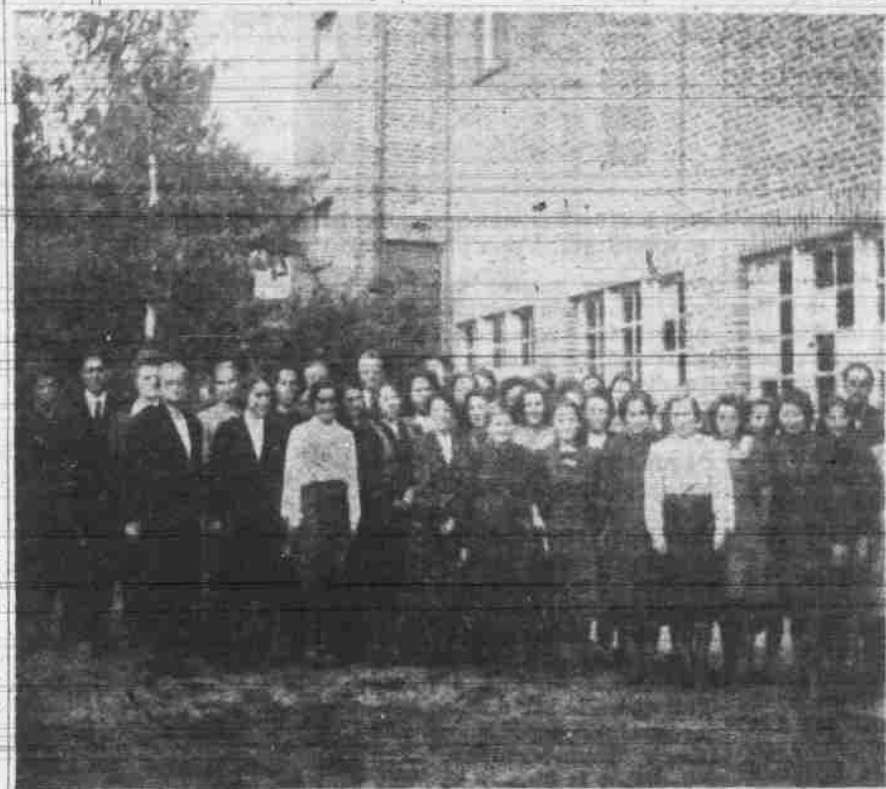
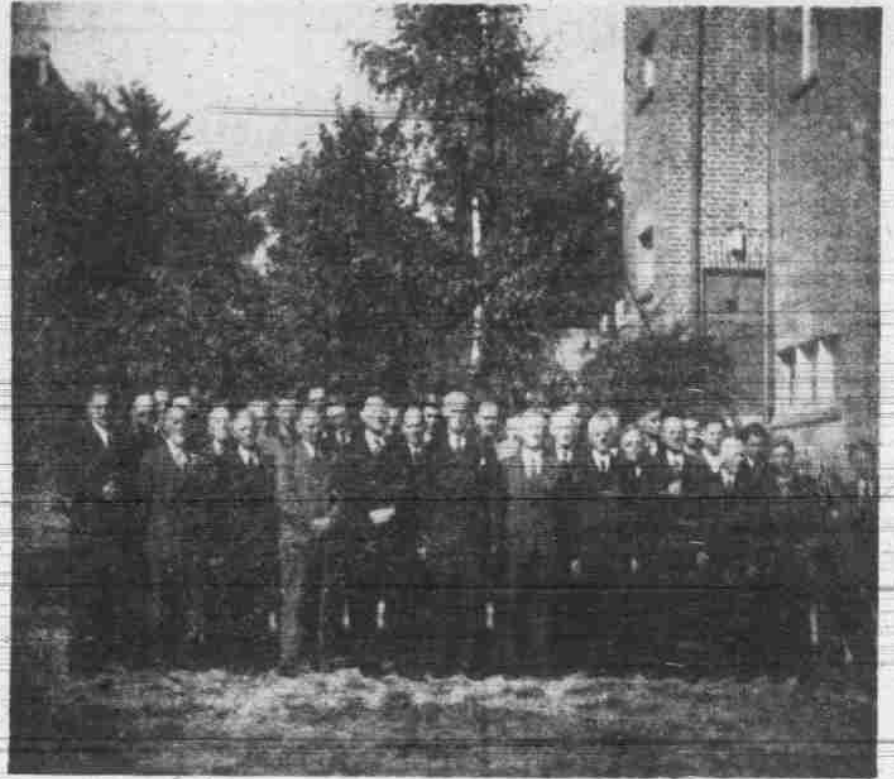
Further his report states:

"The old mission office at Haendelalle 6 was completely destroyed during an air raid on November 22. Nothing was saved from the building. It is a pile of rubble. A new mission office has been set up in a room of a building at Rathenowerstr. 52, about four or five blocks from the old office. Arrangements are being made to obtain the home of one of the Nazi 'Big Wigs' as a new mission office and home. One is lined up, but a better one is in prospect.

"During the years of the war the policies of the church and its teachings have been carried on. The members remember particularly President Thomas E. McKay and President Alfred C. Rees and their work here as is evidenced by the questions they ask of their whereabouts and well-being. All were saddened at the news that President Rees had passed away. The news of the passing of President Grant has not been received throughout the mission. It was first brought to the branches in Berlin with our arrival. Everyone has fond memories of President Grant's visit to the mission just prior to the war.

"It has been possible to carry on established Sunday School and Sacrament meetings and the evening hours in the homes. Despite the unsettled times, the progress of the mission was unhindered. Semi-annual conferences were held in all parts of the mission. Attendance and the carrying out of the conferences was successful and provided spiritual food for the Saints each time. There were no difficulties with the civilian authorities.

A recent photo of the priesthood members of the Stuttgart, Germany, branch.



This is the choir of the Stuttgart Branch "Which," writes a serviceman, "is on a par with any ward choir in Zion."

Servicemen meeting with the Stuttgart Branch are at right. Only their last names are reported, as follows, left to right: Philips, Carver, Taylor, Hadley, Hunt, Tucker, Browning and Banks.



"A large number of the Saints have met their death due to the war. About 400 of the brethren found a hero's death on the battlefields in Africa, in the East and in the West. In practically every town the members' homes were damaged by air raids. About 40 members were killed as a result. Figures are not accurate at present as many fled to the farms and have not been contacted since. The homes of about 250 of the Saints were completely destroyed. Of the remainder, about 95 per cent were damaged.

"During the years of the war food supplies were very limited. However, there was no extreme need experienced by the members. Great cooperation

within the membership of the Church helped a lot in this respect. The shortage of food still exists and was much worse at the close of hostilities. This is due to the complete breakdown in the supply and transportation system. Food available is insufficient. Clothing, beyond what is in one's possession is unobtainable. The principal foods are potatoes and bread. Even these are insufficient. Stocks of canned and bottled foods put up by the members are exhausted. Some have gardens which are yielding enough to help out. Often a meal consists of boiled potato peelings and salt.

"In spite of their need, the

members are not disheartened, but are looking forward to further growth of the church and an increase in church activities. They are not afraid of the future. The spirit is perhaps better than ever before, particularly the spirit of cooperation.

"During the last months of the war, the members started collecting excess clothing and necessities into safe places. Now camps or colonies are being formed on a cooperative basis. Displaced members are gathering at places such as Cottbus,

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