

DISPLACED PERSONS CAMP HELLBRUNN RED CROSS FUND-RAISING LABEL

Background: A displaced persons camp or DP camp is a temporary facility for persons displaced from their former country, city, village or rural habitat by war or famine.

When World War II ended in 1945, there were 7 to 11 million displaced people, or refugees, living in Germany, Austria and Italy and its largely in those countries that DP camps were established for refugees from Eastern Europe and for the former inmates of the Nazi German concentration camps. Over one million refugees could not be repatriated to their original countries and were left homeless because of fear of persecution. By 1947, still some 850,000 people lived in DP camps across Europe, among them Armenians, Poles, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Yugoslavs, Jews, Greeks, Russians, Ukrainians and Czechoslovaks; and in 1953, over 250,000 refugees were still in Europe, most of them old, infirm or disabled and children.



In the first months after the war there were barely any children under the age of 5 in the DP camps, and only 3% of the survivors were children and teenagers aged 6-17. Most survivors had lost their entire families, and the feelings of loss and loneliness for children and adult alike outside an establish

family often was profound. However, the years 1946-1948 registered a birth rate in the DP camps as the highest in the world. Medical care for newborns and their young mothers, provided in cooperation with relief organizations, was to be one of the foremost challenges.

This imperforate souvenir sheet was produced in 1946 for the Hellbrunn Displaced Persons Camp in the American Zone of occupied Austria. The funds were to go to the Red Cross. Although the labels designs are inscribed "POCZTA" these had no postal validity. Each label depicts a work by Polish painters of which one was Józef Chełmoński "Storks" 1900 (1849 - 1914) and Leopold Löffler "Return from Jasmine [captivity]" 1863 (1827 – 1898). These sheets were produced both perforated and imperforate on white ungummed paper. Apparently only 20 000 were produced.

R M Pelteret Friday, 11 May 2018