

# **Thousands of little children of France are crying to you to save them from German frightfulness.**

New York: French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund, Inc., 1918

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*French Heroes LaFayette Memorial Fund*

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*In view of general situation, think we should concentrate completely on immediate necessities. Immediate need of caring for children of bombarded towns is great, notably in Paris. We can organize safety of great numbers of children, but must depend on America for funds.*

Cable Message, March 28, 1918, from Paris Committee of  
The French Heroes LaFayette Memorial Fund, Inc.

THOUSANDS OF  
**Little Children of France**  
ARE CRYING TO YOU TO  
**SAVE THEM FROM GERMAN FRIGHTFULNESS**



Here is a Picture of Two Little Children who were wounded by  
the Germans. There are thousands of others today in  
the most desperate need of help

**WE HAVE DROPPED EVERYTHING TO WORK FOR THE RESCUE AND PROTECTION  
OF FRANCE'S CHILDREN FROM GERMAN PERSECUTION AND BUTCHERY  
WILL YOU JOIN US AND HELP THEM?**

*Presented by  
Miss Louise P. Kellogg*



**C**HILDREN of France today are suffering from wounds, gas poison, exposure, nervous shock and mental distraction—all inflicted by the Germans. Many are separated from their parents, many have lost their parents for all time—the father dead in battle and the mother killed by the Germans before the eyes of her children—and all of these helpless little refugees are homeless. They need food, shelter and kindly care to quiet their very souls from the horrors they have endured.

The Paris Committee of the French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund, Inc., has cabled us that the situation is so desperate that its members have dropped all of their other sorely needed efforts to work to save as many as possible of these children. The Committee has cabled urging us to send funds, emphasizing that no time is to be lost and that the number of lives saved practically may be estimated by the number of dollars we send.

These are the facts with which we approach you in this hour of grave crisis and desperate emergency. It is children—little children, too young and too weak to help themselves—who may thank a merciful God that they had a few fortunate moments in which to flee from the deadly shells and equally deadly gas of the German disciples of "Kultur."

These children have fled from many towns taken by the Germans in this latest reign of frightfulness inaugurated by the Kaiser. Many of them had lived under the brutality of Ger-

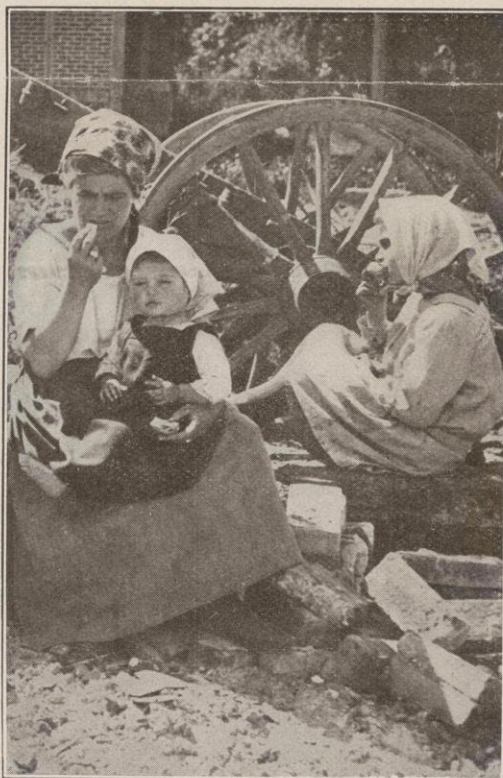
man rule when formerly their homes were held by the Prussian hordes. It needed only the recollection of their experience to spur them on to mad flight. They knew not where or to what they were going. Their one and only thought was to get away from the cruelties they had come to know so well.

The German offensive has hurled thousands of these children into strange places and pitiful, tragic helplessness. Strange but friendly

hands, though sorely tried by their own burdens, have gathered them together as best they could; from places where they have hidden, terror-stricken and trembling, from fields, forests and roadways.

Now the news comes to us, direct from Paris, that these pitiful waifs, huddled together by the tens, the hundreds and the thousands, are in the most desperate straits. Many are almost dead from fright and none of them has so much as a crust of bread other than is given them by people who themselves have scarcely enough to eat.

Each day sees the number of these helpless and destitute children increased. The situation already is desperate and as the scattered children are gathered in, it grows worse. It is the darkest hour France has known. There are no two ways to the situation—we must help them and do it now. We appeal to you to help with the largest possible contribution. Don't stop to argue whether or not you can afford it. This is the time for any sacrifice when the lives of France's little children are at stake.



**Refugees. There are many thousands of them today in France who have lost everything and are in desperate need.**



**A**T no time since the war began have conditions been so serious as they are now.

It is the only occasion on which our Paris Committee has put aside its other very necessary work for new activities. The other work has been for the maimed and blinded soldiers, the soldiers wounded and in hospitals, the destitute women, children and aged people, and faithful efforts on behalf of the home, school and sanatorium established for orphans at the Chateau de Chavaniac, birthplace of Lafayette.

It is not men or women we appeal for now—it is children, and when the lives of France's children hang in the balance, there is but one course to follow.

We are perfectly certain that you understand why the Government of France cannot care for these children and give them all they need at this time. Every man in France who is able to fight is under arms and battling to the death to keep the Germans from breaking through. Do not forget that our own Americans and the glorious British also are fighting and dying with the French that we may have liberty and life. The French Government must supply millions of men in the field—and some of them Americans—with the necessary guns, ammunition and other almost countless supplies. France is staggering under the colossal necessities, but is sticking to the task with unbreakable courage and devoted loyalty. Pressed to the limit of human ability and resource to support the fighting forces upon whom depend victory or defeat, France cannot now help these many other victims of

war, and it is out of all reason to expect it. But we can help them, and we must. We must help the children. You have read only recently how the bodies of little Lithuanian girls of tender years, mute testimony to the diabolical practices of the invading Germans, have been found in considerable numbers. You have read how Belgian babies have been impaled on the bayonets of the Prussians, how little French and Belgian boys and girls have suffered the amputation of their hands as well

as other and unspeakable mutilation, by the Germans. Let us thank heaven that these children we want to help have been spared these awful atrocities. But let us also remember that some of them today bear the scars of wounds and persecutions inflicted in the earlier stages of the war by the Kaiser's butchers; that many are suffering from fresh wounds inflicted before they could reach safety from German bombardment. They must have medical care and be nursed back to health.

We feel sure you will understand now why our Paris Committee has be-

come an Emergency Committee, pledged to the care of the children. This Committee includes such men as Ridgeley Carter, Robert Woods Bliss, James Hazen Hyde and Judge Walter V. R. Berry—names that furnish a complete guarantee that the work will be done well and faithfully.

Send us a check by return mail for these children. It will make you a party to the biggest deed at the most critical hour the world has ever known.



**One of the rescued. Won't you help the many who today are destitute and suffering?**



WE want to offer you some reasons—good reasons, we believe—why we should, and will, help these suffering and helpless children of France at this time.

Over and above all else, they are little children, not capable of caring for themselves and without the necessities of life that we are asked to provide.

They are alone in the world, terror-stricken and bewildered. Prompt and generous action on our part will save the lives of many who are ill; many will die unless quick, adequate help is given.

They are France's children today; they will be the men and women of France in that heaven-born tomorrow when victory has been won and peace restored. France must look to these children for the building of the Republic's future. If we act promptly, not only will many lives be saved, but tranquil minds and sound, healthful bodies instead of little children mentally distracted and physically broken, will be given back to France.

These little sufferers are the children of our Ally, and it is the most sacred duty of our lives to help them. France has fought and suffered for almost four years; fought, and suffered that liberty might live, that we and other great nations may have freedom, justice and honorable peace. And it is because of the heroism of France, Great Britain and the other glorious Allies that we in America have not heard the

guns and known the horrors and demolition of war.

Again let us say they are the children of France, living representatives of the best friend America ever had among the nations. They are descended from those brave men of France who came to us when the hour was darkest and our peril the greatest. It was their forefathers who fought with us and for us and whom we must thank for the liberty, peace and prosperity



Little French tots, rescued by friendly hands, who are happy because they have something to eat.

we have enjoyed for more than a hundred years. You have been told this before; you cannot be told too often, for we owe a debt to France that we may acknowledge but never can repay.



An orphan of France. This boy, whose father fell in battle, saw his mother slain by German soldiers. Today he must depend upon strangers for food and protection.

These are our reasons for appealing to you now. Look upon it as the big moment of your life, accept it as a privilege to help a little child that needs food and protection. Give now and give generously. Thank God that you, as a child, were spared the horrors and suffering these little victims have endured. If you have children of your own, thank God that they have been spared and let your thankfulness find material expression in a liberal gift of American dollars for them. It is not only today that they need help. All of life stretches out before them. But they cry to you for help in the hour of their greatest emergency. Won't you answer that cry?

*Make all checks payable to James A. Blair, Jr., Treasurer, French Heroes Lafayette Memorial Fund, Inc., 360 Madison Avenue, New York City.*