
VIENNA AREA COMMAND

selves to current conditions. The administration of the Austrian school system is so closely associated with its political life that with elections impending, there was no desire to make decisions of any consequence during the month. According to established custom, the majority of the elementary teachers were engaged for periods extending from two days to two weeks in checking registration and voting lists. The imperative physical needs of the schools, is a matter of great concern to both Allied and Viennese school officials. The number of pupils is increasing daily with the returnees to Vienna. A weekly check of school conditions through the Bezirk officers indicates fewer comments. This is interpreted as an adjustment to prevailing conditions and the restoration of as normal a state as the situation permits.

b. 1945-1946 School Sessions. It is hoped that during 1945-1946 Vienna will be able to conduct the first normal school year since the Nazi's assumed control in 1938. The entire system went into operation on 10 September with 95,000 elementary and secondary school pupils in attendance. One week later, on 17 September, the majority of these children were served their first school lunch. This has been continued since and extended to include all the public and private schools in the city. Many small children have left Vienna for other parts of Austria and for Switzerland, but returning families and classes that were evacuated as far back as the autumn of 1944 have increased the school population almost daily. The present figures are:

<u>Schools</u>	<u>All Vienna</u>	<u>US VAC</u>
Section 1 (Elementary)	80,380	15,559
Section 2 (Secondary)	16,933	5,964
Section 3 (Vocational)	25,598	6,360
Total	122,911	27,883

The normal school population was around 155,000. The desire to keep the schools open is concurred in by the Education, Public Health, Public Welfare, and Public Safety Sub-Sections, and by the Red Cross, for reasons pertinent to their respective programs. In view of the possible physical and moral status of the children the purely educational aspects of keeping the schools open are of secondary importance. Whereas, their closing means cancellation of the "lunch" program and the release of more than one hundred thousand children from the discipline of the school to roam at will throughout the city of Vienna.

c. Consolidation of Schools. In anticipation of a limited allotment of fuel, the recommendations of this office for the consolidation of schools into the smallest number of buildings commensurate with space and educational requirements was followed in commendable fashion by the school inspectors. The 58 elementary schools operating in 40 buildings are now housed in 25. The 21 secondary schools operating in 14 buildings are now housed in 11. The 18 vocational schools operating in 14 buildings are now housed in 7. In addition, there are 7 elementary private schools operating in the same number of buildings, one building of the secondary group houses a private elementary and secondary school, and there is one hostel maintained by the city of Vienna in the

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