

POLISH RELIEF FUND

Appeal by  
SARAH CHURCHILL

Following is the text of tonight's "Week's Good Cause"  
Appeal: 8.40 - 8.45 p.m., Home Service:-

All wars in their general tragedy seem much the same, and yet when you think back through history, there is always some feature, some picture, which springs to the mind when a particular war is mentioned, something that marks it off quite clearly from other wars, some distinguishing mark which gives it its own particular character.

It is difficult for us to say, being as yet so close to it, what will seem the distinguishing feature when after generations sit and ponder over this war. I think it may well be the grim figures of the refugees, the ceaseless flow of countless millions of innocent people, driven from their homes and native lands, by the greed and megalomania of one man.

There is no need for me to paint for you the sufferings and sorrows endured by the refugees in this war. Some of you know too well what it means to lose your home, or maybe your family. Those of you who are evacuees, know what separation means, the difficulties of living in other peoples homes: add to this the additional difficulty of a strange land and a strange tongue, and you have something of the plight of the refugee in this war.

Tonight I appeal to you on behalf of a fund that has done, and is doing, magnificent work to relieve the suffering of the Polish civilian refugee in this country, and I want to tell you why this is a cause, and not just another charity.

Many and far-reaching are the demands made upon you during war; as with any great undertaking, one's responsibilities increase rather than decrease, but we must not forget because other events are crowding in, that it was Poland who stood firm in the first dark days of the war.

They were the first to know the incredible onslaught of the German Army, and later their hateful occupation. Stories of the heroism of the Poles and their refusal to co-operate, reach us from time to time, stories that are nearly always followed, alas, as swiftly by tales of retribution.

We can do nothing to help those in Poland except by our final victory, but in the meantime, there is much we can do for the Polish civilians who have sought refuge in this country.

They are in need of even the bare essentials of life. They need food, clothes and somewhere to live, and their children need educating.

But if there are many of these refugees here in need of our help, there are also many Polish sailors, soldiers and airmen who have come from their country to fight side by side with us.

This surely alone constitutes a powerful reason why to help them is not only a duty - but indeed the discharge of an honourable debt. The refugee symbolises so well what we are fighting for - indeed what kind of war this is. Let our relief increase in volume and size, we can yet take comfort in remembering that this is a war for the meek of the earth, not the strong. Will you please help? A donation, however small - however large, will be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Please send your contribution to me,

Miss Sarah Churchill,  
The Polish Relief Fund,  
33, Belgrave Square,  
London, S.W.1.

I know you will help - so in advance - on behalf of the Polish Relief Fund -  
Thank you.