

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR PEACE

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Please reply to :-

D. L. Sainty
Relief Section 109
British Red Cross
B. A. O. R.

4th November 1945

Dear Derek,

Report 28

This will be a short report because I'm sitting disconsolately on my bed with the machine on a box; having retired from the turmoil and confusion below stairs where packing and moving is proceeding vigorously. All but two of the Guides have considerably withdrawn for the day to leave us an unencumbered field, and the house hums. We haven't yet got our Movement Order, but I've to phone Miss Roberts this afternoon if it hasn't come, and unless a direct prohibition comes shortly (which is unlikely) we shall move tomorrow without it, if necessary. There is a very urgent job waiting south of Göttingen, and our location will be the village of Bremke, 3 kilometres from the Russian frontier and about 10 from 'International Corner', where the Russian, American and British zones meet. German refugees are coming over the frontier at a control and exchange point at the rate of 6000 a day just now, with another 800 - 1000 at Bremke. It has caused a big problem for the Mil Gov of the Kreis (= County, roughly) and the Mil Gov officers have done a magnificent job up to now against all imaginable obstacles including official obtuseness until this last week when the Corps has taken notice and things are now being done on a larger scale. A camp for 10.000 was pegged out yesterday and Nissen huts are being built there. The present accommodation is hopelessly inadequate. Our own smaller niche at Bremke also requires a lot of work and our immediate function will be to relieve some of the congestion at the big camp (Friedland) by doing some decentralised delousing and so on. We shall be working with German Red Cross and village people (W.V.S. and pastor, etc.) as well as with the Mil Gov, and I think we have landed very luckily again in respect of our working contacts. Our 'O.C.', Lt.Col. Perkins, is a grand chap and it should be a pleasure to work with and for him. I went down there yesterday with Yvonne Marrack of F. R. S. 124, our particular 'buddies', on an unofficial preliminary visit which was due to a piece of intelligent anticipation on her part. It means that we should get started sooner than would have been possible had she not arranged the visit because the preliminary survey has been done and we have fairly good idea of what we're going to before we go. Col. Perkins took us round the area and we saw the stream of people coming through the barrier, the congested camp and railway platform and all that is being done and requires doing. Afraid I can't go more into detail at the moment.

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Must go and pack
Cheerio,

David