

# 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.

1st December 1945

Dear Derek,

## Report 32

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### Friedland :

We are disappointed. The new camp is not yet open, though we were told yesterday that it would definitely without any more delay be open on Monday. The opening has kept on being put off, mainly I suppose because of shortage of supplies, but I'm afraid it hasn't been a good example of organisation, particularly in view of the tremendous enthusiasm with which the start of the job was tackled. The present camp has gone on being congested and filthy, and in the bad weather, of which we've had two spells - rain, snow and slush - the conditions in the camp have been deplorable. The bright spot has been the work of the German Red Cross, who's Sisters are doing a remarkably good job in strenuous circumstances. It might have been possible for us to help with details of organisation which would have improved things slightly, but if the new camp had opened in the few days which was the time promised it wouldn't have been worth trying and we took it that it wasn't worth it. We have got the transport going as steadily as possible, but are constantly up against the need for improvement in the service generally - with our transport we cannot cover all the needy cases, and there are considerable difficulties in getting miscellaneous string of vehicles, half running for profit and half 'laid on', to pick up first only those people who should go first to the camp; when there is a constant stream of people along the road, all being 'moved on' by the police unless they have a lot of baggage dumped from a cart which has come through the frontier, or obviously can't go further; when the moment a vehicle draws up people swarm on with very little consideration for the helpless; and when every time a vehicle does draw up the road is a little more congested. However, we are bending the energies of the police, the German Red Cross and ourselves to the problem. For all the inconveniently silly ideas commend me to international frontiers; though I suppose having the heritage of an island I shouldn't talk.

### Social life :

We are making contacts with all sorts of people, as you may imagine, and we have some very interesting converse with German civilians in Bremke - the staff of the Gasthaus, the Pastor, the doctor's daughter who is church organist and interpreter-bookkeeper for Bremke camp, the joiner, and so on. Ramsay has cut the first foothold for IVSP, I think; a moral equivalent for Nazism, perhaps. It's interesting to note the types of people in our immediate neighbourhood - some very definitely not Nazi, not unduly patriotic, human being first and nationals only incidentally; and others who might very easily have been sound Nazis, and probably were. And the latter have also intelligence and capacities for useful citizenship of the world.

The electric light keeps going out.

Yours sincerely,

David