

W O R K R E P O R T

Week ending 28th December '45

It has been a full week though strictly speaking it merits little mention in the work report as the movement of refugees has been reduced to a mere 2.000 even on the days when they did come through. The frontier was closed on the 25th and 26th but on most of the other days the Russians had provided no locomotives and so no trains arrived at Arenshausen.

This break has been fortunate as the fitting out of the new Hospital has not been hampered by the influx of patients. On the other hand many of the camp workers have been off on 'french leave' and so the full use was not made of the time. Erection of signs, attempting to obtain straw, arrangement for replacement of German ambulances, and such matters has kept one of us about the Hospital on numerous occasions.

After conversation with Frau Korber of the German Red Cross we came to a satisfactory arrangement about the handling of the stocks of clothing we possessed, and delivery was made the excuse for two of us having afternoon tea in her company. She has had wide experience having been attached to the Red Cross since 1926 and seen service in Crete and France during this war.

David in his official capacity spent the afternoon of Boxing Day at the Students gathering in Göttingen where he let them know how we would welcome their help at Friedland. In his absence we entertained the 150 children from the village school and Col. Perkins came along to watch the fun and games. The pleasure the kids derived repaid the efforts expended in preparing sandwiches, biscuits etc., and the fact that numerous little blighters were sick seemed to give the catering department satisfaction - - it apparently being the hall-mark of a successful party (children's).

We wanted the staff here to lie off for two days but though we managed to put quite a lot of work into the preparation of the Christmas dinner they continued to do much of the work. Our guests were all connected with our daily round - - the Lagerleiter from Friedland, four Nurses, the Interpreters from Bremke and Göttingen, the Carpenter and the Jütte family. Non of us were any the worse of our Christmas dinner and turned out on boxing morning to play the POWs from Bremke at football. We won (repeat 'won') by 4 goals to 1. By way of tuning up for the return match several of us spent some time moving logs from the forest to the saw-mill and ultimately in blocks to the wood-shed. This should assure our warmth over the next month or two even if not another victory.

We may be past the shortest day but the winter is far from past as the frost is setting in again and during the week our tents and marquees were flattened in a gale which was accompanied by a deluge of rain.