

BRITISH RED CROSS COMMISSION - Relief Section 109 IVSP

FORTNIGHTLY REPORT to Jan 8th 1946

BESENHAUSEN

For the past fortnight numbers coming from the Russian Zone have been low and spasmodic and for a few days at Christmas the Frontier was closed. A high wind wracked the three marquees used for sheltering old people and up to date one has been re-erected. The German transport available is coping with the 2.000 refugees (average) by lunch time and the Guides' Canteen in serving milk to children and coffee to adults is a distinct improvement on our past facilities.

BREMKE

Numbers of refugees moving westwards and using Bremke have been very low over the past fortnight, though many continue to use this entrance to the Russian Zone.

RITTMARSHAUSEN

The Centre at Rittmarshausen has been closed down.

FRIEDLAND

The Hospital section has moved into the new camp and facilities such as screens for the 'dusting' barrack and the hospital, washing bowls for mothers with young babies, latrines, a hut for baggage, seating accommodation, etc., have been added or are in the process of being made.

Today, a first contingent of students from Göttingen University have been giving voluntary help in dismantling tents, helping people on the road from Besenhausen and in various camp processing. We are hoping to continue and develop this voluntary help for the permanent labour position in the camp is very bad. The camp needs were originally estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 300 POW's but due to desertion and other causes there are approximately 150 at present.

A further difficulty in connection with the new Friedland camp is the unfinished nature of large sections of it. The responsibility for maintenance work rests with the Garrison Engineer of Göttingen but he is at present without sources of staff, labour and materials to meet the possible needs caused by bad weather and increased members.

HOSPITALS IN GÖTTINGEN

The Unit is keeping in close touch with centres used for refugees and has been able to help in several ways. Parcels of Red Cross clothing have been handed over to responsible authorities, though the bulk of our Red Cross Supplies are being issued at Friedland Camp on the authority of the Head Sister or Doctor.

GENERAL

At present, due to a large extent to the shortage of refugees, the Unit is not hard-pressed for work but it is attempting to have defined and increased its present responsibilities.

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