

RS / 143 / I.V.S.P.
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I.V.S.P. Scheme
Berlin - Nikolassee
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REPORT No. 2

This week saw the end of the first "Decade" on Aug 20th. The whole of the first group of volunteers stayed on and were joined by three more boys and an older lady who is helping Frau Kaufmann with the cooking. As both need to visit their homes occasionally this works very well.

The dismantling of that part of the hut which has to be taken down has been completed and the work this week has consisted largely of cleaning down and distempering three rooms in the hut where we are living. When that end of the hut is completed we shall move into it and decorate the other half.

Another job has been the dismantling of two high fences of wooden poles and barbed wire. All the poles have been shortened so that when we use them next week to erect another fence elsewhere, the effect will not be so definitely that of an internment camp.

There will be enough work for another "Decade" from Sept. 1st to 10th. It seems probable that we shall get enough volunteers for this period and possibly for longer.

Douglas had to leave the scheme from Tuesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon to attend a team-leaders' meeting in Vlotho but his place was taken by Jack. With Arthur's departure the staffing problem becomes difficult. A housemeeting has decided that Betty shall come full-time to Nikolassee to maintain continuity and that Douglas shall live at Nikolassee but travel to Kühlerweg every morning, returning to Nikolassee as soon as Unit business has been attended to.

The tone of the camp is satisfactory. There was a particularly good discussion this week, initiated by the volunteers themselves, on the problems affecting their continuance as a group after the end of the service, particularly in the event of Unit 5 moving elsewhere. They were very interested in the work which has been done by a few youth groups in England - hospital help, youth hostel decoration etc.

The series of talks begun last week have been continued. Beryl has given an account of I.V.S.P. work in Greece. Harry Robertson, on 72 hours' leave in Berlin, has described the service at Meschede and the work of the team at Kevelaer. We have also had a talk on vegetarianism which elicited a good deal of discussion. Next week we hope that a French journalist will talk to us (in German) about young people in France. Herr Konietsko of "Tagesspiegel" will continue his talk on the development of human personality which aroused a great deal of interest last week.

Professor Dr. Luckow, whose son is with us, will also tell us something about the pre-1933 international student camps with which he was connected.

During the week two American Friends connected with CRALOG visited us together with two Berlin Quakers', brought us some food. They were very interested, said that other American Friends were due in Berlin shortly and that they would bring them along.

Another American brought along a newspaper reporter who is starting up a youth periodical backed by the British Education Dept. He was very keen indeed and wished to publish an article with photographs. Douglas pointed out that this would have to have special permission from the Department which had forbidden us to allow anything to be published about our share in the work. An Attempt to make an appointment with the Department for next Monday has failed and the question of publication was definitely turned down by a sub-officer of the Department. The attack will be renewed, with the idea of obtaining permission for I.V.S.P. to organise in Berlin practical voluntary work-schemes for young people. There can be no doubt that such schemes would be welcomed with open arms by German authorities and that no better way could at present be found to tackle the youth problems of this city.