

TWISTEDEN / GELDERN  
-----

REPORT

The Scheme ran for six weeks from Aug. 5th until Sept. 14th and was divided into two parts :

- (1). Aug 5th - 26th a Youth Scheme (Age group 15-19yrs. Average age 16yrs.)
- (2). Aug 26th - Sept 14th an Adult Scheme (Age group represented 21-38yrs. Average age 24 yrs.)

VOLUNTEERS

- (1). Aug 5th - 26th.

During this time 39 volunteers served, 31 boys, with three exceptions all schoolboys, 3 men and 5 women.

- (2). Aug 26th - Sept 14th.

During this time 12 volunteers served, 8 men and 4 women.

Total number of volunteers who served during the six weeks was 45. Of the adult volunteers 10 were students (Law 2; Physics 1; Commerce 1; Economics 1; History 1; Philosophy 1; Teaching 1; Accountancy 1; Unknown 1.) 1 Merchant, 1 Teacher, 1 Secretary, 1 Nursing Sister. Total number of women volunteers 7.

6 British Personnel served at the Camp, three the whole time, the remainder for varying periods. All were IVSP members.

THE JOB

This consisted of felling and sawing demaged timber, and bundling brushwood for winter fuel. Fuel collected to be distributed among the old and sick people of the Stadt Geldern.

The work site was a forest very near to the Dutch Border, in fact we had to be careful for fear of trespassing into the Prohibited Zone! Wire for tying the bundles was simply unobtainable by the Stadt and our eventual source of supply, not discovered until the fourth week, was an old aerodrome where we were able to help ourselves to ample supplies of old electric light cable. This proved to be excellent for our purpose. The last two weeks fund all hands tying and stacking bundles ready for transport. The work of bundling was not too heavy for the women volunteers and they joined in whenever Camp domestic duties permitted. Bad weather stopped work on several occasions but there was a general willingness to get back on the job just as soon as conditions permitted.

It was found that during the Aug 5th - 26th period the younger boys (15 - 17 age group) who had not seen any active service worked, on the whole, with more diligence than the older boys (17 - 19 yrs) all of whom had served in the German Forces.

The total number of 'boy/man hours' worked by volunteers over the whole period was 2544.

FOOD

Civilian rations supplemented by supplies ex Schweizer Spende, Cleve, and R.S.150 IVSP. British Red Cross.

Civilian rations were paid for by the Stadt Geldern.

The collection of rations presented some difficulties as we had to present our permits at shops carrying sufficient supplies to cover our needs. These were unfortunately some distance apart and collection took more time than would normally have been thought reasonable. Cooking was done on a 72" Range. The Sisters producing ample and varied meals. All praise to them, because sometimes bad weather made cooking very difficult. Only once was there a 'Food complaint' and that was proved to be thoroughly unjustified.

ACCOMODATION

Accommodation was in bell tents plus one large marquee as dining and common room. A separate kitchen was constructed of tarpaulins and served us very well.

The tents were not all that could have been desired. Rain found many holes, and we spent one or two uncomfortable nights until able to improvise fly-sheets.

The Camp site was a good one. A large field lying alongside the wood in which we were working, pump water available on the site, and plenty of space for games.

One day was spent improving the road into the field, a truly magnificent piece of work, superintended by our friend Dr. Michaltscheff of Hamburg.

### EQUIPMENT

Equipment came from various sources and was all on loan.

Tents from Military Govt. Education Dept.

Cooking utensils, crockery etc. from R.S.150 IVSP and from the Schweizer Spende in Kleve.

Tables, stools, and tools were all lent to us by the Stadt Geldern.

### EXPENSES

Liability was divided between the Stadt Geldern and the I.V.S.P. The Stadt Geldern paying for Food and paying 50% of the fares of volunteers attending the scheme. The I.V.S.P. was responsible for the day to day running expenses, and paying 25% of the fares of the volunteers.

Total cost to the Stadt Geldern 500 - 600 RM

Total cost to the I.V.S.P. 168 RM

The comparative low cost was due to the fact that many of the volunteers had only a short distance to travel to the scheme.

### ORGANISATION

Organisation of the Scheme was upon usual I.V.S.P. lines. The Leader and the Head Sister being appointed by the I.V.S.P., the former responsible to the volunteers for the general running of the camp, the latter for all domestic and cooking arrangements. Camp 'chores' were the responsibility of all, different people being on 'kitchen service' daily and volunteers called for whenever necessary. A weekly Camp meeting determined the programme and was an open forum for any discussion relating to the running of the camp or the comfort of its members.

From the camp meeting tool men were elected various times to take care of the tools on the job.

On two occasions when we were a Youth Camp it was found necessary to appoint a foreman. This actually worked very well, the younger lads appreciated having someone to direct their labours. With older volunteers this proved unnecessary.

A Camp Log Book was edited by several different people, and was written both in German and in English.

One representative was elected every week to attend the October Conference.

During the first period of the Camp (Aug 5th - 26th) the adult volunteers had also a weekly staffmeeting. This proved to be a useful medium for the discussion of policy, rations etc.

### LEISURE

Programme planning was from Wed. to Wed. to enable new volunteers arriving on Mondays time to settle down to Camp routine. During the first period programme planning was something that required constant attention whereas in the latter stages with a smaller older group it developed spontaneously.

Discussions. Difficult and not very productive with the younger group, spontaneous talks and yarns whilst on the job more useful. They seemed very shy of the atmosphere of organised discussion but talked freely when in groups of twos and threes. Later with older groups of volunteers discussions both organised and spontaneous were very good indeed. A very wide range of subjects was covered and we tended, even in organised discussion to wander over a wide field although always returning by devious routes to the starting point.

Subjects included 'The future Government of Germany', 'Living Room', 'The economic future of Germany', 'International Affairs', 'IVSP', 'Religion, differences and comparisons', 'Religious Freedom', 'Music'.

*B 46 09 30 - 1 03*

Excursions. These were a regular feature and included visiting the Relief Section at Kevelaer and our Swiss friends of the Don Suisse Organisation at Cleve. The local Cinema on two occasions and one successful outing to a village fair.

Swimming expeditions were very popular and took place whenever weather and transport permitted.

Camp Activities. All the usual games were played and enjoyed. Football, Handball, Table Tennis, whilst Playing Cards, Draughts and Chessmen were available also.

Evening Camp Fire Sing Songs were a regular feature and made as international as possible.

A Camp Concert ably written, produced and performed by the boys was a great success and called for no little improvisation by the stage manager.

Two Camp Parties were held, the first just because we wanted to have a party, and the second our closing down party. Many of the earlier volunteers who lived in the district were able to come to the latter.

Visitors. We entertained very often, and often our visitors helped to entertain us!

Regular and welcome visitors came from the Relief Section at Kevelaer. The Burgermaster, his wife and family and the Stadt Director of Geldern came and spent several evenings with us.

Members of the Don Suisse Organisation from Cleve. Ex. volunteers and parents and friends of serving volunteers.

Prof. John Harvey during his visit to Germany. Basil Eastland, Dr. Michaltscheff of Hamburg and David Sainty.

Major Futter of the Geldern Mil. Govt. Det. who was also responsible for a talk followed by discussion upon 'Policy and Problems of Military Govt.'

#### DIFFICULTIES

We experienced all the usual day to day difficulties associated with the running of a Camp but nothing approaching major proportions. The first week was naturally a little difficult but as soon as we had a nucleus of people who understood something of the aims and basis of IVSP the camp ran very smoothly. One of the later weeks was a little 'sticky' due to difficulties of catering for a very wide age group and the fact that that particular week we had only a very few people staying over from the previous one.

#### COMMENTS

Of the success of the scheme there can be not doubts. The work was well done, the spirit throughout good, and with few exceptions everyone pulled their weight.

There are however two points to be made.

- (1) Age of volunteers. The earlier volunteers (15 - 16 yrs), whilst they worked well, were mostly too young. They could not absorb the IVSP spirit sufficiently, and some certainly tended to regard the scheme as just another camp. Minimum age suggested 17 yrs.
- (2) International Element. Although recognising that a truly international camp was impossible this year, the balance even between English and German volunteers was very uneven. The camp would undoubtedly benefited had there been more countries represented or even had there been a greater number of English volunteers.

Leslie Gore 30 / 9 / 46