

REPORT ON EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE BERLIN - CAMP OF THE I.V.S.P.

a) Work

Our experience showed in the Berlin camp that both the work and community benefit, when volunteers can work together in larger groups.

A regular discussion of the method and planning of the work with the experts and skilled workers on the job is beneficial as was proved particularly in our scheme.

b) Work at Weekends

The following groups helped us with the work at three weekends

- 1) 31 friends from fellowship of Reconciliation and I.V.S.P. group.
- 2) 18 friends from Berlin I.V.S.P. group.
- 3) 24 friends from a local mixed confessional group interested in our work, with several members of the RAF.

Work at weekends without a balance of free time during the week proved a disadvantage, as after six days of often heavy work the volunteers and particular those taking part in the camp for six weeks really needed a rest at the weekends. Nevertheless contact and work together with other groups, interested in our work is very important.

Suggestion :

The weekend work should be planned in good time through discussion with the community in such a way that the time worked in balanced by corresponding free time on a week day. At the most only one weekend each month should be worked.

c) Food

The food situation in Germany brings particularly great difficulties which we felt especially in our camp. It is really necessary that the volunteers keep to their dates of arrival and departure, is impossible to extend the period of service on account of late arrival. When possible the day of arrival should be a Saturday and that of departure a Sunday. Late comers often created difficult situations as friends from the West Zone only received their ration cards two or three days after their arrival and the result of their arriving at irregular intervals during the week was that much time was wasted in several journeys to the food office each week. In Berlin it is possible to feed a community, in the West Zone it is under present conditions out of question.

d) Community

In addition to the difficulties caused in the food situation the irregular arrival and departure of volunteers has a bad effect on the spirit of the community.

It is necessary to bring people together on a common basis which is easier to find when the volunteers begin and develop in a stable group.

For instance at the first evening together an explanation of the work and a discussion of aims and community life in I.V.S.P. is suggested.

More care should in future be taken in the choice of volunteers for the camps. So far it has been the practice that a member volunteering for service gives the names of two I.V.S.P.-members who can recommend him. In the case of a new volunteer who as yet has taken part in no scheme and about whom no report is available, at least one of the persons named me be consulted. This should be done through Anneliese Ehrhardt.

In filling up the application forms the truth must be strictly adhered to.

e) Free time

The changing composition of the community makes itself noticeable in the arrangement of free time.

When a camp must unavoidably be carried through in the vicinity of a regional group special care should be taken that not too many members of that group take part in the scheme at the same time. The possibility of going home or leaving the camp for other purposes has a disadvantageous effect on the community and free time arrangements.

Among our arrangements for the evenings the following may be mentioned

- Talk on "French Youth today", by a French padre from Mil. Gov.
- Miss Bayley of Education & Religious Affairs Branch on "The English School Child"
- Discussion on the report of "Paris Conference".
- Alfred Olivier on "Pacifism".
- Participation in a singing competition.
- General excursions on several Sundays.
- Visit and discussion with friends of the war resisters group in Potsdam with Heinz Kraschutzki.
- Discussion on IVSP with friends from the local catholic and evangelical youth groups.

In conclusion we invited some English and American and French representatives of Mil. Gov. with a few German guests to a party which was not only for our guests but also for us a great experience. The contact with the guests was made particularly easy through our arrangements of the evening and left on all a good impression of the work and spirit of I.V.S.P.

f) General remarks

In the scheme we encountered a difficulty which so far seems to have arisen elsewhere, in that volunteers from abroad were forced to sell cigarettes and clothes in order to get a little pocket money. Naturally when this was discovered they were given money from the scheme's funds which brought the total paid out as travel and pocket money up to 250,- RM. The funds of schemes and regional groups can however not bear such heavy demands and the question should be settled centrally.

HOUSEHOLD REPORT

After the first two weeks of the camp a crisis arose in regard to the food situation. Of the 19 volunteers only 2 had ration card number II, the rest having number III. The daily ration per head on card no. III was :

Bread	400 g
cereal	40 g
sugar	20 g
fat	10 g
meat	40 g
potatoes	400 g

These potatoes were during the first four weeks unobtainable and the meat uncertain and the fat could only be bought from 10 to 14 days later than the date when the coupons became valid. In spite of all efforts of the Berlin team it was impossible even through the British Mil. Gov. to obtain a higher ration card for the friends from the West Zone.

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In addition to these rations we received a supplement from the British Arbeitsamt of

flour	15 lb.	
fat		6 lb.
dried potatoes	9 lb.	
tinned meat	35 lb.	
salt	1 lb.	
and vegetables.		

per week for the whole camp.

The five volunteers from abroad obtained their rations through the relief team.

Altogether told our average ration lay between that of group I and II on the Berlin ration card.

Daily ration	on card I	and on card II
bread	600 g	500 g
meat	100 g	65 g
fat	30 g	15 g
cereale	80 g	60 g
sugar	25 g	20 g
potatoes	400 g	400 g

The practical result was that during the 3rd and following week the volunteers had thin soup three times a day with 7 slices of bread. In spite of all efforts to the contrary this situation made itself noticeable both in the work and in the community life.

On the evening of Monday 9th of June we had an open discussion in which our difficult position was explained. After a short discussion of the facts we came to the conclusion to apply again to the Landesgesundheitsamt for advice and help with the object of finding a way whereby we could at least get the potatoes due to us.

The successful result was that we arranged to obtain all the potatoes then and subsequently due through the hospital of Hohengatow, and which we received as dried potatoes in a ration of 1 : 5. Betty Dinwiddy explained that although there was a possibility of getting extra rations through the British Red Cross this would mean taking from the supplies held in reserve for cases of desperate need and this solution was unanimously refused.

At the beginning of June Johs Krueger-Larssen had applied to Denmark for help in the form of rolled oats which did not arrive until the 14th. However, with these two successes the food situation was saved.

During the whole time we received great help from the Berlin team, often to such an extent that they themselves went short in order to send us more.

The following is the short summary of credits and debits

Credits

Received from Krankenhaus Hohengatow	1.500,00 RM
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Debits

Stores	200,54 RM
Telephone and post	7,70 RM
Newspapers	4,10 RM
Fotos	5,30 RM
Travelling expenses	392,60 RM
Pocket money	100,00 RM
miscellaneous	<u>52,50 RM</u>
Total debits	<u>762,74 RM</u>

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Balance	737,26 RM
Donations from volunteers & friends	<u>104,05 RM</u>

REPORT ON WORK

7.500 Square metres of land were spread with peat which was then dug in as manure for the planting of vegetables. For this about a hundred cubic m of peat were dug out and in order to facilitate the transport of the peat a road was made down to the pit. For this much earth was moved, sleepers laid down and the way levelled and rolled. The peat was carried with an English lorry.

We planted in all 3.700 tomato and 8.500 other plants including Kohlrabi, celery, onions etc. In addition a field of some hundred sq.m. was set with potatoes. All these plants needed constant care i.e. weeding, hoeing, thinning and watering, and the tomatoes had to be staked with sticks which we cut ourselves.

At the beginning of the scheme we had finished the construction of some terraces and later we cut turf which was laid on the sides to prevent heavy rain from washing away the earth, the surface covered being 900 sq.m.

Another project successfully carried through was the construction of a lying-out terrace for the Tb-patiens in the hospital of Hohengatow. For this it was necessary to clear and level the area and move away about 30 tons of iron barsto another place, then to transport wood for building and about 200 sq.m. of boarding for the roof. In addition a road some 70 m long was made down to the terrace for which about 10 cu.m. of earth was moved and the path surfaced with slag and rolled.

During the whole period of the scheme 4.473 hours were worked by us with an addition of 350 hours at weekends by three groups interested in our work.

The total number of volunteers who took part was 54, the average number at any one time being about 19, of whom only 5 were from abroad.