

INTERNATIONALER FREIWILLIGER DIENST FÜR DEN FRIEDEN (IFDF)
Executive Committee

Duisburg, 30. August 1947
Neckarstraße 13

Circular letter

regarding the extension of the Freiburg scheme, and the organising of a service in Mülheim (Duisburg)

Dear Friends,

Rather more by accident than design an executive committee meeting took place in Radevormwald (Bergisches Land) on 24 August. At this meeting the following among others points were raised and decisions reached:

1) The **Freiburg** service will be extended until the work upon the house is finished - presumably until the end of October. In actual fact the volunteers will have to come from the French Zone itself in view of the very great difficulty in getting entry permits for the French Zone. Perhaps a few may come from Switzerland and from France, and efforts should be made to get volunteers from the American and British Zones and from Berlin, in spite of these enormous difficulties.

2) There should be a small service with from 10 to 15 volunteers in **Mülheim** (on the Ruhr), in the middle of the Ruhr District, commencing on 4 October and leaving until the frost sets in, or in the event of a mild winter, until the spring. The work would consist of

-- to work on roof repairing, removing damaged roofing, loading and transporting tiles (supported by the Duisburg IVSP team); removing and replacing laths and other work on the actual framework of the roofs.

-- to work on certain reconstruction jobs in the houses themselves, in order to increase the living accommodation.

The scheme would be in the Papenbusch-Colony in Mülheim on the Ruhr (Dümpten), which is occupied by Mülheim ironworkers. War-damage removed about 2/3 of the roofs of the houses, and they had only be patched up by the inmates themselves. Rain comes in everywhere making the suitability of the buildings for living in very doubtful indeed. A great number of the houses are to a greater or lesser extend damaged.

Repairs could be undertaken if the necessary auxiliary labour could be found to assist the skilled workers. Accommodation could be found in the vicinity of the colony. The International Secretariat in Paris had promised the participation of some foreign volunteers.

The desire to get as much work done before the beginning of winter as possible caused us to put the commencing date as soon as possible. We hope that in spite of his short time, there will be sufficient applications from volunteers. Please inform all your friends about these plans. There is a possibility of longer-term service for volunteers who have already taken part on an IFDF service.

Applications for the Mülheim service (men and women) should be addressed to

a) (until the beginning of the service (4 Oct 47) Hilger Erben, c/o RS 150/IVSP, Duisburg, Neckarstraße 13.

b) (later than 4 Oct.) Anneliese Ehrhardt, Bremke bei Göttingen.

Volunteers who have already served with IFDF need only give the times between which they can serve. A second choice should also be given. New volunteers should apply to the above addresses for information.

Volunteers from the French Zone who wish to take part in the Freiburg service, or other volunteers who already possess an international passport should apply to the IFDF Lager, Freiburg, Hugstetterstr., Neue Chirurgische Klinik. Except under these circumstances, there will not be much point in applying owing to the short time which will be insufficient to obtain the French Zone pass.

Amitie,

Hilger F. Erben.
(for the Executive Committee)