

Minutes of Meeting of three German relief teams held
on Wednesday, 28th January, 1948, at HQ 5, Vlotho

Present : Basil Eastland, Advisory Officer, HQ 5.
Derek Edwards, General Secretary.

Unit 4
Berlin Betty Dinwiddy - leader
Reg Thickens
Johs. Kruger-Larsen
Peggy Maclean
Pegeen Morris

Unit 7
Duisburg Elsie Gainham - leader
Eileen Tailor
Keith Bywaters
Bill Bowman
Carnie Bagnall

Unit 4
Schleswig Edith Thompson - leader
Bill Forse
Alan Robertson
Allan Page
Jim Tapp
Monica Fear

After welcoming the team members and Derek, Basil asked for brief reports on the work from team leaders.

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5. Work-Camps

Basil said that teams would be interested to hear that the representative of the Congregational Christian Work Camp Fellowship would be coming to Germany shortly with a view to starting work-camps here. The boys from the F.A.U. had been doing good work - six of them in Bremen, three at the Youth House in Berlin, two at the Swedish I.A.L. in Hildesheim and one at the I.A.L. in Hamburg.

Reporting briefly on the work of IZD during the year, Basil said that about 200 German and 77 foreign volunteers had attended the various work-camps organised by IZD at the new year, Easter and during the summer. The IZD now had its own secretariat in Mülheim to which all communications relating to possible volunteers, work projects, etc. should be addressed and a copy sent to Basil. The schemes planned for Easter were as follows :

Gelsenkirchen - digging a garden to grow food for an old people's homes.
Ratingen - repairing a children's convalescent home.
Berlin - Tidying up playgrounds.
Freiburg - re-afforestation.

Ten camps were planned for the summer - four in the British Zone, three in the American Zone, two in the French Zone and one in Saarbrücken. The actual schemes would be selected by the IZD committee from a list of 36 possible projects which had been submitted to it. If team members knew of suitable German volunteers, the names should be sent to the IZD secretariat who would contact the volunteers direct. Basil asked if any team members felt they would like to spend a period on a work-camp during the summer, or if they could be spared from relief work.

Alan Robertson considered that it was a good thing for people doing relief work to get away to a work-camp some times and to see the job from another angle.

While this point was generally conceded, Elsie expressed the opinion that the case for keeping teams at full strength would be weakened if members were permitted to spend weeks away from job on work-camps.

Reg said that a member should only be permitted to go to a work-camp with the full consent of the team, bearing in mind that his job would require to be done by another member of the team during his absence.

Derek hoped that teams would not make an overall ruling which would prevent a member from going to a work-camp.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that anyone who wanted to take part in a work-camp should be free to do so subject to agreement by the team leader and team concerned and Basil.

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