

S c h l e s w i g

The Schleswig and Eckernförde groups held their first week-end camp at Borgwedel (about 12 km from Schleswig) on Saturday 3rd April. Five students from Kiel made our numbers up to 24 for a week-end which I'm sure all found to be both enjoyable and helpful. The work at this settlement - comprising of an Old People's Home, Children's Convalescent Home, Girl's Voluntary Work Home and Youth Hostel - was the helping in the laying out of a playing field for the children.

The main point I would say was the bringing together of the various groups of young people for more than just the hours of work, the time spent over a week-end's activities, eating, sleeping and discussing etc. being an essential factor in the understanding of the meaning behind Zivildienst.

Clearing trees, digging a garden patch, dismantling an Air Raid Shelter is grand fun when one knows that at the end we will all come together in a social evening and discussion. This we managed to cram into one short week-end and at the end all the little inconveniences were forgotten. Perhaps the sleeping quarters for the boys were not too warm but no one made this a cause for complaint although it is hoped that in our next scheme we will be able to supply more blankets.

No claims are being made that this effort was an ideal Zivildienst - no one knows what such a camp would be like - but we feel that we have started on our way to the attainment of a very good Zivildienst standard as last week makes us believe that the spirit and will to find out is there.

Nationalities represented were Danish, German and British and many were the little discussions which took place as we waited for a meal or on our way to the work place.

All look forward to the next scheme in two weeks time and although there were sad hearts on Sunday evening as we departed, the knowledge that we can renew the friendships made and discuss with less restraint makes the intervening days much lighter.

Alan Robertson