

Relief Section 143 / I.V.S.P. Berlin

REPORT OF TEAM ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH APRIL 1948

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Work-camp

This came to an end on Saturday April 24th, nine children's playgrounds had been put in order, which was considerably more than the authorities had dreamed was possible, in spite of the fact that we had fewer volunteers than was planned due to the difficulties of travel to Berlin. On Friday evening we had a most successful farewell party, which was quite an occasion for the team too, as it was the first time for a very long time that we were all able to be together at one function. And this was only achieved by Peggy and Reg bringing their groups from Youth House along with them! We invited Mr. Miller from the American Youth Education dept, and Mr. Berenson and Miss Bailey from British Education dept. We all went for a tour of inspection of the playgrounds, and really realised what a good job the camp had done. The sight of the many children already playing in the sandpits this lovely sunny evening was very encouraging. We went back to the camp to a very nice evening of singing together, and an entertainment arranged by the "entertainment's committee".

Week-end work-camps

In spite of the work-camp at Schöneberg our week-end schemes continued. Two week-end work schemes were organised this month as follows :

Apr. 3rd - 4th.

Week-end camp in Neighbourhood Centre Neukölln, accommodation in two rooms, beds and blankets borrowed from the American Mil.Gov. cooking on the floor on our petrol cooker!

15 volunteers took part, including Pegeen, Rudi and myself. Several bookshelves repaired, a number of window-boxes made from old ammunitions boxes. But the main job was rubble clearing and stacking the good bricks for re-building. A lot was done, but there is a mountain of rubble to clear.

Apr. 17th - 18th.

Week-end camp at Old people's home Neu Kladow, accommodation in two offices that were not required over the week-end, beds and blankets as above. 12 volunteers took part, including Pegeen, Rudi and myself. 17 cwt of potatoes were planted, and a considerable amount of ground dug ready for planting other vegetables.

The atmosphere in these two camps was extremely nice, and in both cases we agreed as we were getting ready to go home that it was a pity that we couldn't make a longer scheme of it. I think the reason for this was partly because we had got very tired of the wood-cutting job, and these new projects were greeted with particular enthusiasm, although it is much easier to run a successful week-end camp away from Kühlerweg, where the team activities sometimes get in the way of the work-camp! Also perhaps another reason for the "family feeling" in these two camps was the fact that they were smaller, this was of course because many Berlin volunteers were in Easter camps elsewhere.

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Betty Dinwiddy.
Section Leader
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