

R E P O R T
ON THE FIRST WEEKEND WORK PROJECT IN WESTERLAND (ISLE OF SYLT)
4. / 5. JUNE 1948

Just outside the famous seaside resort of Westerland, the Luftwaffe built a large Airdrome; during the war they enlarged it further through the erection of some wooden hangars.

Today the airdrome fulfils the more useful function of giving accommodation to refugees from the east, old people, and young children. A Youth Hostel is also planned there. The latter is to be situated in the very middle of the airfield, in what was once the fuel depot. Besides being a Youth Hostel and schoolchildren holiday home in the summer, it is planned as a rest home for students in the winter. However to convert the vast garages into suitable rooms a lot of wood is needed; and so as soon as permission was obtained to dismantle one of the wooden hangars, 14 members of IZD Groups Schleswig, Kiel and Eckernförde moved in, together with four members of IVSP.

For the male members of the Camp the work consisted out of lying flat on the roof, and hammering loose the planks of wood, once the topmost layer of tarpaulin in had stripped away. Beneath us on emergency benches where the better half of the camp, busily occupied with removing nails from the planks, and straightening them out. Once again the IVSP 3 tonner came in useful; although it was not up to its usual good behaviour, in fact of the last journey it had to pushed home; removing the salvaged wood, to a safe storage place. Total working time for the weekend, including a demonstration in lorry-repairing by three members was 13 hours. Camp-members and the "Herbergsvater" declared themselves very satisfied with the amount accomplished, which amounted to about 1/6th of the hangar being stripped.

Owing to the above mentioned lorry difficulty we could not hold our usual camp discussion, owing to the less of time on Sunday afternoon, for the rest the camp run the usual course of weekend projects, only, perhaps a bit more so. The fine weather, the satisfactory and satisfying work, added to a very fine Camp-spirit of Unity, made this camp a very worthwhile experience. We sung, danced, walked and swam, besides having a ride on a roundabout (after all it is a seaside resort!).

The above paragraph gives the clue to perhaps the one small criticism to which the camp laid itself open. Nobody got enough sleep. It was past midnight Saturday, and on Sunday, due to the train-service it was past 1 a.m. when the Kiel people reached home. However such decision in the running of a camp as to how long an evening ought to last is a matter best settled by the "feeling of the meeting" as our Quaker friends so nicely say, and, I expect most of us learned by the experience.

Fred Deutsch
Le responsable.

9th June, 1948