

HQ 5, C.B.S.R.A.,
(Civilian Relief),
B.A.O.R. 1, Germany

VOLUNTEERS LEAVING GERMANY

It now seems certain that all the German volunteers who were chosen to go abroad, and who live in Berlin, will not now be able to go. We made an exception in the case of ASTA WILLKE, as the crisis was just blowing up when she was due to leave, and we did not dare to think that things would become so grave in so short a time. In addition, her passage had been booked on the Civilian train and boat, and in any case IVSP would be asked to pay for these. The extra £ 6 in BAFVS which Betty had to hand over the Air-bookings counter in Berlin for the air-passage was the penalty we had to pay for sticking to our decision to utilise the passage which had been booked for Asta. However, it will be impossible to pay the same sum each time the 8 other volunteers wish to leave Berlin and return there (4 to Switzerland; 1 to Sweden; 1 to Holland; 1 to England [this means that Dieter Hartwich will not be able to come]; 1 to Belgium [Herbert Franzkowiak - although Betty has expressed her brotherly-in-law-to-be intention of paying his air fare, if she can do so by paying in London - confidential note]).

In any case it is now proving very difficult, if not impossible for volunteers coming from places other than Berlin, to pay for their papers. As you know, everyone was allowed to exchange 60 old RM on the day of the money reform, into 40 new ones, which they can supplement by their wages. Students can't do this; they don't earn anything. But the Entries and Exits branch are still charging 32 DM (Deutschemark) for the Exit permit of one of our volunteers. Visas for Switzerland, transit visas through Denmark, Belgium or Holland, cost up to 46 DM! This means an impossible expense of some £ 5 each, in addition to the rail fare to the border; they would have to hitch-hike to avoid the latter, especially as it is now impossible to pay fares on the international expresses in Germany, in Deutschemark - they must be paid in foreign currency. But they cannot hitch-hike the expenses for their exit permits, and I just do not see any way at all round this - we British people have not even seen the new German currency; so we cannot help out even if we had the private means to do so.

I have asked Bill Bowman to bring up this problem at the Youth Officers' conference in Düsseldorf tomorrow; it means otherwise that Gerda Müller, for instance, whose brother I met yesterday, who has got the ticket on the North Express sent her from the IAL in Stockholm, and who's Exit permit is actually waiting for her in Hamburg, just cannot go because her family nor her friends have sufficient Deutschemark to rake together to lend her to get her Permit and pay for her visas.

VOLUNTEERS COMING INTO GERMANY

Owing to the situation in Berlin, it may prove impossible to send in volunteers other than British ones. I have enquired from the Fredsvenners in Denmark whether they could possibly afford £ 24 to fly two of their volunteers from Hamburg there and back; but I imagine that they are the only member of our work-camp family who could possibly think even of affording that amount of money. If Betty says that it is impossible to "wangle" the "other nationals" on to the Bückeberg-Berlin plane then it might be advisable to try and divert some of the British volunteers destined for camps other than Berlin, to Berlin, and to replace them with the foreign volunteers planned for Berlin. This is just to give you warning that that might happen. At all costs we do want to give the folk in Berlin the feeling that we are doing our utmost to make their summer camp a success. Naturally they will carry it through without any foreign volunteers at all if it proves impossible to get any in at all. Betty is also investigating the problem of getting the 8 cwt of food up there. Should each Berlin representative to the Team leaders' conference in Vlotho, take back with him or her a pocket-full of peas?!

Cleon White : As you will see below, we have had to make an alternation in the opening date of this camp. However, since there will be at least one or two there from the very beginning, there will be a certain amount of work to do, other than the actual road-repairing, and we would like to ask Cleon, as a man experienced in Germany to lead a small group from the 3rd July until the arrival of the complete "company" on the 16th. Do you think he could, and would? When he arrives at the Hospital he should go to Director BIENERT who is in charge of the administrative side of the place. There he will be made quite at home, and there will be a letter awaiting him giving him final details about the arrangements which have been made between IZD and the hospital.

On the same day the following foreign people are expected to arrive : Karoline Junge, she is a Danish girl who was in Mülheim for some months last year, and who will possibly be asked to be head-sister of the camp. Another Danish girl, Anna Petersen should arrive with Karoline. Two Finns are due soon after the 3rd July - Toivo Niemenin (a young man) and a girl Taimi Kainanen. Then there should be two American Mennonite lads who have been doing relief work in France - Jonas Classen and Harry Miller. They should come from the IAL camp in Hildesheim.

We would like Cleon to try and hold this group together until the main body of people arrives on the morning of the 16th to start the actual road-construction. The hospital do not want to start having their main and only road up, until they have got at least 20 workers there, so that the road will be closed for the minimum period. One or two German volunteers may find their way there by bicycle or hitch-hiking, before the 16th.

To recapitulate - **NEUENKIRCHEN** will start officially on the work planned, on the 16th July. For the two weeks before that date, whoever happens to have collected there will do alternative work, of which there is an immense abundance. Cleon would hold the group together during that initial period.

KÖLN (Cologne). In view of the shortage of volunteers both German and foreign, during the first week for which this camp was planned to run (12 - 18 Jul), and also in order to have all the camps starting on the same day, the camp will not start until the 19 Jul. This only actually affects Shirley Stout who would, in any case be leaving London on the 16 July, and staying the Saturday in the team, and going off with the Danish contingent to the camp on Sunday. Agree that she will have to come back from Paris.

HAMBURG will most probably have to be completely changed; but no confirmed details can be given until next Sunday. Only the date of opening of the camp has not altered - the 24 July.

WÜRZBURG. An awful and maddening silence emanates continually from Bill Weber, and we do not know anything at all about the possible Würzburg camp. hitherto, "**NÜRNBERG**" as the destination of foreign volunteers scheduled for the American Zone, has implied Nürnberg or Würzburg, and that, to answer your question, Derek, is the explanation why no volunteers were scheduled by me to go there specifically. It is up to Bill to say where he wants them; indeed he apparently insisted upon this right, if my interpretation of your reply to him (copy to me) is correct.

Please book American Zoners to Duisburg. Detrain at Oberhausen not Essen; CCG bus thence to Duisburg, Neckarstraße 13.

HILDESHEIM - details as far as I know them, enclosed, also **HAMBURG**. All these alterations in times &c of IZD camps are not yet certain as they depend upon confirmation - and that depends upon postal facilitates which most people are too poor to afford; upon telephone conversations which no-one dares to make as they won't be able to pay the bills : and upon telegrams which are quite beyond the purse of anyone.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Basil Eastland