

CBSRA Commission
Relief Section 143 / IVSP
HQ British Troops Berlin
B.A.O.R. 2

July 9th 1948

Dear Derek,

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We have today received Rudi's Visa for England and my brother has already paid his air passage in London so we are all set now to come home. We are going tomorrow to try and book Rudi's passage for July 26th and then I shall follow him on July 27th if I can get a reservation for that day. I am determined not to leave until I see him safely on his way as there are so many possibilities of last minute hitches in this crazy set-up in Berlin !

We will be able to see the camp started on July 17th (we hope!) there are still a good many obstacles to overcome, but we are determined to have the camp it is humanly possible.

The Berlin volunteers who are to go abroad are not easily disheartened, and it is wonderful to see the determination with which they cope with each obstacle to try and still get to the camps. In the last few days I have been doing what I can to help them. We hope that Eva Maria Brömmling will leave on Monday for Switzerland. She has (after fruitless attempts to get an air passage) discovered that there is a bus that goes from Berlin to Hamburg for those who can get interzonal passes. She hopes to get one tomorrow.

The forms that have to be filled up, the standing in queues that has to be done, and the general wear and tear on the nerves in order for one volunteers to get the necessary papers to go abroad has to be experienced to be believed. And every time the conditions get worse here in Berlin the forms get more complicated, the queues get longer, and nerves naturally get more frayed. But our volunteers are really so patient and persevering in the face of these tremendous difficulties that I should feel so terribly sorry if their journey was not possible after all. We are doing what we can to help them.

Conditions here for the Berliners are very difficult, only four hours electricity a day (I am writing this by candlelight). The trams and underground's are not running after 6.0 p.m. to save power, and on the wireless this evening we hear that gas is to be cut by half to save coal.

Peggy has just returned from leave, she was held up in Herford for two days as there was no room on a plane.

Many thanks for the general letter of July 2nd, and the copies of information about service in Germany etc. for foreign volunteers this summer. We have read and digested it and think it is very good and most comprehensive.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Betty