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31 Jul 48

BE/DE/83

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

Derek Edwards,
I.V.S.P.,
34 Broadway,
London S.W.1.

Dear Derek,

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GERMAN VOLUNTEERS

I hope that Asta Willke has not given the impression that her coming to England has only been an excuse to get out of Germany; and I do hope that you are satisfied with her service on the camp. Yes, Ruth Dittmann is a good girl. I hope Dieter Hartwich from Berlin and Thea Bong turn up all right. The travel bureau had just succeeded in losing Dieter's papers* when I was up there in Berlin - oh! and the British authorities will pay for Dieter's air passage from Berlin. If then, we are not responsible for Asta's return air passage, then the only possible liability that we have in Dieter's return fare - which cuts down the total expense incurred from £ 24 to £ 12, and perhaps even to £6, if Dieter is flown back again free. Finally, there are the two young Stampa girls. One is certain to come - Almuth; but Herrat is having difficulty in getting out of the Russian Zone, where she is studying music in Dresden. There is of course still time until 13 August, when they are scheduled to leave Kiel, but there is this possibility that Herrat may not be able to come. It would be such a pity, for it would be so right to have a volunteer who has experienced life in the Russian Zone.

Incidentally, I hope that you enjoyed your camp experience; I can say that I really did enjoy being in Berlin and working with the camp for about 3 days. The leader, Bill Brown, is really wonderful. Neither he nor, indeed any of the foreign volunteers has ever had any IVSP experience, but he seems to have got the camp going on the right lines (which proves the fundamental right-ness of our methods), and the German IZD members, are certainly challenged to get across to the "foreign volunteers" just what IZD means.

Bill Brown is getting his ship back to America from Southampton; he is leaving Cologne on the international train to England on the 30 August, and will arrive in London on 31 Aug. He would like to stay at the Hermitage for a night, or perhaps even two, and I know that you will be interested to meet him. His ticket is being booked by the Duisburg team from Cologne to Southampton, and they will get the money from the AFSC representative in Düsseldorf. Bill is not responsible to pay for his fare, incidentally, as all volunteers pay £ 125 down in America, which pays for all their travel expenses in Europe.

* They then found them again, and Dieter left on the 6 pm plane yesterday; will travel to England, today, and you will see him long before this letter reaches you.

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All good wishes,

Basil