

MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST

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I.Z.D.

During August the gatherings of I.Z.D. were smaller owing to a number of volunteers being abroad in camps and others taking part in the Berlin camp in Neukölln, which ended on 28th. Here with the help of volunteers from America, Britain and Denmark a site was cleared of rubble and the foundations of a wooden hut for the American YWCA neighbourhood centre laid.

Apart from the six weeks camp a singing group met twice, and two week-end schemes were organised for gardening and rubble clearing in Oskar-Helene-Heim.

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Misbehaviour of Berlin I.Z.D. Group

The Monday evening before I went to the team leaders' conference I spent in holding a lecture about the misdeeds of the above group. I felt it was so important that I obtained permission from the General to arrive late for the conference. The misdeeds are not terribly serious and are aggravated by the conditions in Berlin, causing a strong desire to get away from the tension, if only for a short period. Some of them have worked on a camp that is sufficient, this applies especially to the attitude towards new volunteers. I think this comes from the German idea that a group is an entity in itself and not designed for expansion in a democratic way.

To cut a long story short some of them have been going schwarz, to the west and turning up at a camp asking to be taken in, and creating difficulties when they feel it is necessary to return. These difficulties consist in petty lies to the authorities and finding the return fare which after the currency reform is a real drain on I.Z.D. resources. Bill Bowman with our support put forward that in future anyone travelling "schwarz" would not be accepted in a camp, and I personally hope that they will be strong enough to carry this out.