F.R.Thickins Relief Section / 143 / IVSP British Troops Berlin December 15th 1948

Letter No. 3

Dear Derek,

You will have to excuse me if you don't hear from me very often. Just now is our busiest time and sometimes I wonder how I am going to get through the day, but it seems to always work out. We are farther handicapped by the lack of light. We now get the same amount of power as our German neighbours four hours every evening! Most of the British families have moved from here, leaving us isolated and while we could move to a district where there are more British Families it would possibly mean sharing a mess which is out of the question considering the nature of our work and the number of Germans that buzz in and out of our office.

It might be possible to be attached to a military circuit and I hope that it is possible as we have opened our house in the evenings to students who have no light and heat in their homes.

The IZD group here are trying to raise funds and have bought a lot of plain postcards and wish to know if they may use the design on our Christmas Cards this year, but without the surround of the spade and the broken sward, only the centre piece of the ruins. I hope that will be alright and they will not be breaking any laws of copyright.

I was very pleased that we made the effort to go to the AGM and that Dieter was able to come with me. It was a great improvement on last year, and they conducted their affairs much more objectively. Heinrich was not elected Chairman and I have not met Hans Temme but according to report he should be a good man. Heinrich is his deputy and I was speaking to him of the improvement I had noticed and he was of the opinion that it was because a lot of the delegates present had been in camps abroad and this had helped them to have a broader viewpoint.

Bill will be giving you a more detailed report. Great interest was shown in the Berlin problem a though it was difficult to show any practical help.

I enclose the monthly report, and don't think that I have any more news. Please accept my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, from us all here to all in Broadway and the Hermitage.

Cheerio

yours

Reg.