

REPORT ON KÖLN WOCHENENDDIENST OF INTERNATIONALER ZIVILDIENST

Jugendherbergsbunker, Niederländerufer, February 4 - 6, 1949
Bredford Rowland, Quäkerhilfe, Koblenz / Rhein

Four people journeyed the 82 kilometres from Koblenz to Köln last Friday night to help in work of service. Two young people chosen from each of our discussion groups, and Herr Johannes Adams the director of the Bodelschwingheim for boys and I, set forth to help and to learn. It is our hope to start a service similar to that of our Köln friends, here in Koblenz.

The quarters for the camp were in a Bunker (Air-raid shelter), that has been decorated in a surprisingly cheerful way to serve as a youth hostel. (The Bunker afforded us our first idea. We have an idle bunker here that might be redecorated to serve a similar purpose.) Six people came down from Duisburg : Bill Bowman of I.V.S.P., Monica Cliptone, Anneliese Ehrhardt, Alice Brügger of I.Z.D. and their driver Erwin Schmidt. We ten and thirteen from Köln made up our group of twenty-three. Under the leadership of Wilfrid Jores preparations had been carefully made. Saturday from eight in the morning until five-thirty in the afternoon we worked in an old peoples home. The girls loaded rubble that had been piled in front of a building into two trucks. The boys were fully occupied with "Tausendfüßler Arbeit" (Centipede work). About seventy-five truly tremendous and heavy timbers (Balken) had to be moved in order to clean a room which the old people needed to use. So eight of us would heave one of the timbers up onto our left shoulder, fall into step and then march off. To the call of "Schmeiß - Weg!", we would have it off on to a new pile. As we went home one could notice a decided list to port in the posture of each of us. After three more hours' work on Sunday morning we were gratified to leave the room ready; the steady work we had moved the entire pile. The girls this morning cleaned a room to make it ready for a new occupant.

The week-end was a success both on the work done and the happy feeling in the group. On Saturday evening we enjoyed singing and the reading of letters from friends in other parts of the world. We ate candy from Grace Rhodes, "Wer für uns unendlich viel schon getan hatte". (Who has already done so much for us.)

We heard a letter from Jean Fairfax, who had worked with AFSC in Austria. Marianne Hundt wrote of her work with co-operatives in Sweden.

With Alice Brügger and Ruth Dittmann I paid a visit to Dr. Lohmüller. He is an X-ray specialist. He and his family have had a close connection with Quakers for many years. He has given free treatment to poor children. Now, through his wife he has inherited a large plot of land. It is his intention to use it as an "Erholungsheim" (Resthome) for poor children. He is requesting the aid of an I.Z.D. workcamp to help build a barrack to house the children. He has fine letters of recommendation from the English Quaker group, from the Schweizer Spende, and from the city itself. His report on the wonderful situation of the land for a resthome was delightful.

So at four o'clock on Sunday we gathered in a circle and joined first hands, then voices in the singing of "Amitié". Further warm friendship, international understanding cemented through common work together for the service of the needy. "Auf Wiedersehen", and another worthwhile occasion ended.

Those present :

From Köln

Ernst Hopf, Günter Roscheck, Trude Beuth, Karl Regnery, Wilfrid Jores, Ruthild Jores,
Andrea Schmidt, Clementine Schiffers, Gerd Ruge, Hans-Günther Neuburg, Ruth Dittmann,
Krista Pehl, Karl-Heinz Kohnen

From Duisburg

Bill Bowman, Monica Cliptons, Anneliese Ehrhardt, Denise Böttger, Alice Brügger, Erwin Schmidt

From Koblenz

Johannes Adams, Maria Stolzenmberger, Edith Fingerhut, Bredford Rowland