

SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL  
International Secretariat  
9, Guy de la Brosse, Paris 5e

10 December 1949

Paul Hubbe,  
Service Civil International

Prüm / Eifel  
Germany

Dear Paul,

Forgive me for not writing to you before; I've wanted to many times, but life really has been very full here since we got back from Mülheim. (At about 10 o'clock last night I was just finishing duplicating the Minutes of our meetings there! Now the whole thing has to be done again in French and German).

I had an amusing journey from Prüm to Mülheim; terribly cold at first, but on the whole very pleasant. The lorry driver was most kind and did everything he possibly could to help me. We had an excellent lunch together at Neuss - my contribution to the journey before we separated and I went on by tram and train.

I hope you had no difficulty in getting the refund on my railway ticket? In the general hurly-burly and crowd of Mülheim, I forgot to tell Herbert of the 20 DM you lent me, but Willy wrote and told him afterwards so I hope that that too has been satisfactorily settled. Willy is seeing Herbert again this week-end - he's gone to Germany for IZD Annual Delegates' Meeting - and I think he will just check the matter with him again, to make quite sure that it is all right.

I've thought very often of my few days at Prüm. I have extremely happy memories of digging foundations up at Lantsch (I've no idea how that should be spelt!), of scrubbing the kitchen floor! And of meeting and talking to people. I know things have not always been easy at Prüm; a number of factors have made it difficult to achieve the unity one would like to see. But sometimes one learns much even from such difficulties, and if, before you leave Prüm at Christmas the group could feel that in spite of all sorts of differences it is fundamentally one and united, then the experience would not have been in vain - quite apart from the really useful, practical work that has been done for people who urgently needed it. I do believe that the members of the group in Prüm have far more, and far more important, things in common than those which tend to divide them; and if only they could think hard enough of those aims and ideals that unite them, and really pin their faith on them, then the other, dividing influences would fall back into their proper perspective and be seen as relatively unimportant. Am I over-simplifying the basic problem? I don't think so. I know that from the theory to the living practice is a far more difficult step, but I don't believe that my theory is wrong. And the practical step shouldn't be impossibly difficult!

Our thoughts and very best wishes are with you all. Bon courage et bon travail!

Amitiés!

Dora Begert-Trogenza

P.S.

I think Anneliese brought the Insurance forms I promised; I spoke to Herbert in Mülheim about them. She also said she would buy in Köln some water purifier.