

REPORT

Camp : MOGILNO / POLAND
Date : 31. 7. 60 - 24. 8. 60
Organizers : ZMW / SCI
Number of volunteers : ± 24
Nationalities : Poland, France, Gr. Britain, U.S.A., India, Italy, German F.R.,
Germany D.R., Sweden and Holland.
Sort of work : Road-building (pick and shovel), One day harvesting
Housing : Elementary school

Due to difficulties in obtaining visa's in time a French girl some German volunteers could not join the camp. Most of the volunteers travelled with a group-ticket from Paris or Jeumont to Poznan. As the place of the camp was not known in advance to the volunteers arriving in Poznan and the fact that ZMW-friends awaited us only one day later and were therefore not present to take us from the train, there were some difficulties at the arrival. By the kind help of the station-master in Poznan the group succeeded to reach the camp in Mogilno the same day.

At that place everything was well prepared to welcome the group. The camp was very well looked after by a staff of 4 to 5 persons, who served children on holidays in Mogilno in other years. Only the dish-washing after the evening-meal could be done by the volunteers. The camp felt this as a luxury.

The work consisted of digging a ditch at the side of a highway in construction, which would connect a village with a new school with the town of Mogilno. The work was not too hard and fairly well organized by road-building officials. Working hours were from 7 o'clock to 3 o'clock (Saturdays to 11 o'clock) with a break of half an hour. Tools were provided by the district authorities, as were working-clothes and boots. The inspector told us, that he was impressed by our accomplishments.

The group-life was very lively and good. It was a pity that most of the Polish friends arrived only a week later and that we have had not among us a friend, who could translate Polish well. We held one big house-meeting and several discussion evenings (Polish youth organizations, SCI, Polish history).

We regretted that the Polish group had not an experienced work-camp leader. Some minor troubles (Late at night, work) would have been solved easier. Our 18 years old Swedish girl could not cope with the peculiarities of the people of that country and the work.

The contacts with the people of Mogilno were excellent right from the beginning. There will be no volunteer who has not left a friend over there. We passed interesting hours with a group of ZMW, Pathfinders, a camp of English learning high school boys and girls with their Polish and English teachers.

But specially should be remembered our friendship with the young doctor and his fiancée, the postmaster and one of the teachers. One week-end we had a truck to our disposal and visited well-known sites. At the end of the camp the whole group visited Bydgoszcz, Torun and Warsawa.

Many thanks to our Polish friends and all their organizers. The camp has well served its aim : mutual understanding between people of different nations

Chris Hollaender