



Left: Apprentice John Anders was interviewed on his return by Mr. Bernard Taylor for the B.B.C. programme "Kalender." Right: The East through barbed wire



DIVIDED CITY:

Five Board take a look

"Bulging with excitement" was how John Anders, South Lancashire Group apprentice motor vehicle mechanic, described five apprentices from this Board when they left England's shores for the first time on a visit to Berlin arranged by the Industrial Chaplaincy of Manchester.

They were not disappointed. The two weeks were crammed with interest; not only sightseeing in West and East Berlin but also visiting works, factories, youth clubs, the Police Festival, and even jazz clubs and a brewery. In fact everything possible was done by the organisers to show the British apprentices how the German people live.

The first weekend our apprentices were the guests of the German Federation of Trades Unions at their Reception Centre at Wannsee Lake. There they relaxed, "swimming—we must have been barmy. The water was freezing," and talked with their German opposite numbers about matters of interest to youth everywhere.

Discussion formed an important part of their stay. After every visit, and in the evenings, there was opportunity for our boys to get together with German boys of their age. Seemingly without language barrier, they discussed everything from working conditions and politics (particularly restrictions imposed upon the youth of East Berlin) to the differences between German and English girls! "I've never seen our lads talk so much," commented Mersey Group apprentice gas fitter Brian Ramsden.

The boys were entertained individually during the

second weekend of their stay by German families. Without exception they were made to feel "one of the family" and royally entertained. "The meals were fantastic," said Brian Ramsden, "It was only thanks to my German friend that I was saved from bursting."

"The weekend was too short," was the verdict of Irving Hexham, apprentice gas fitter, from North Cheshire Group.

The deepest impression made upon all the boys was the division between East and West Berlin, symbolised by the Wall. Irving Hexham vividly described it as "a larger than life construction of roughly thrown-up breeze block, with barbed wire along the top and for 50 yards behind. The Wall runs along streets, across streets, through houses, churches, and even a graveyard. It is in fact a fantastic, unimaginable construction. Guards with automatic weapons are everywhere—all very young, and many hid their faces when we tried to take photographs . . . The International Committee Jurists have called the Wall 'a mockery to human justice.' All who have seen it will agree."

To Brian Ramsden life in the Eastern sector seemed "as dead as a cemetery over here." Irving Hexham thought the obvious prosperity of West Berlin, the bright street lights, the new buildings, the well-dressed people, made the lot of East Berliners—communist régime, strict police and military controls, poor food, dim street lighting, buildings still in rubble from the last war—seem even worse. Clive Clifton, gas fitting



Time for relaxation at Wannsee

apprentices at Berlin

apprentice from Central Lancs. Group, was glad to leave the Eastern sector. "I just hope the wall will crumble and the East and West unite once again."

The boys were all impressed, as Arthur Bridge, Central Lancashire Group Student Apprentice said, "with the extent of re-building in West Berlin of housing, industry and roads. I think this is a tribute to the hard work of the Berlin people and the faith the free world has had in providing the money for reconstruction."

From their conversations with their German friends our apprentices observed that the German apprentice and student is far more politically aware of world affairs than his British counterpart. "Mad on politics," said Brian Ramsden. They were also impressed with the good employer/employee relationships. Irving Hexham commented, "The workers have the incentive to work hard, and the employers have a thriving industry."

Thanks to the Board for making the trip possible were voiced by one and all. "A marvellous holiday," "The most fascinating part of my life," "I'm now starting to learn German so that I can go back to see my German friends again when I have saved up enough," were among the enthusiastic comments on the trip. Arthur Bridge summed up the true value of the two week trip when he said, "The visit added a new dimension to my life. Now I can think of the German people in a more realistic way. I feel I know their problems, and I know the people."



After the Gas Council's Annual Report Press Conference (reported in last month's issue), Sir Henry Jones, Chairman of the Gas Council, was interviewed by both B.B.C. and I.T.N. for Sound and TV programmes. Our inset photograph shows Sir Henry (right) talking to I.T.N. reporter Nick Barker. In the main photograph he is seen with Erskine Childers during the B.B.C. Home Service live programme "Ten O'Clock."

Mr. H. A. Caryl

It is with very deep regret that we report the sudden death of Mr. H. A. Caryl, T.D., A.M.Inst. Gas E., A.M.Inst.F., Training and Education Officer of the West Lancashire and Northern Groups. He was 48.

Mr. Caryl began his career in the industry in 1931 when he joined the Liverpool Gas Company. During the war he was commissioned in the Royal Engineers and saw active service in West Africa and India.

He returned to Liverpool as Technical Assistant in the Liverpool Physical Testing Laboratory until his appointment in 1952 as Deputy Sales and Service Officer of the then Fylde Group. In 1955 he was appointed Group Training and Education Officer of the West Lancashire and Northern Groups.

Mr. Caryl was an energetic man. Since his promotion in 1958 to the rank of full Colonel in the Army Emergency Reserve he had been in command of an Engineer

Link-Up

Congratulations to Trevor Hartland, Sales Student at Cleveleys Showrooms, on his engagement to Miss Vera Hodgkinson, who is a jeweller's assistant in Blackpool.

Ladies' laudation

A demonstration of Continental Cookery given by Home Service Adviser Mrs. Edna Redman to the Ladies Club of Edenfield and District Community Centre, prompted their Secretary to write in thanks:

Mrs. Redman was a delight to watch, and extremely easy to follow. We are most grateful to her for finding something new and interesting for us. We have all been cooks for years, and this was a definite change, with all the dishes new to us. We appreciate the well-planned programme, and the delightful way in which it was presented. Thank you for your hospitality and service."

A clanger

Oh dear! Calamity of calamities. We don sackcloth and ashes to apologise to certain members of Central Lancashire and North Cheshire Groups who were up in arms—and rightly so—when they read in October LINK-UP that Sedbergh had the distinction of being the only Board showroom in Yorkshire.

What about Barnoldswick and Earby? What about Uppermill? Outraged cries of protest came from wronged Yorkshiremen on all sides. Employees of North Cheshire and Central Lancashire Groups they may be, but everyone of them is proud of his Yorkshire heritage.

Please accept our humble apologies.

A chimer

Happy retirement to Mr. A. V.

Margaret Foster when she left the Board's service after 7½ years working as a shorthand typist. She was presented with a bathroom cabinet and Waterman fountain pen by Mr. John Wadsworth, Board Secretary.

Miss Foster has taken up a new post as Secretary to the Professor of Industrial Administration at Manchester College of Science and Technology. We wish her success in what promises to be a most interesting job.

Democratising definition

Did you know that you, and for that matter any other human being, share certain properties with a burner using one cubic foot of gas per hour?

Both produce approximately 400 B.Th.U's an hour, and yield 1 cu. ft. of water vapour and half a cu. ft. of carbon monoxide.

It's a solemn thought!

Mr. John Cross

We are sorry to report the death of Mr. John Cross, first class gas fitter at Bolton, at the age of 50. Mr. Cross had completed almost 36 years in the gas industry. He was Shop Steward for his union at Bolton and until about two years ago was on the Bolton Joint Consultative Committee.

Stork talk

Wives of two Manchester Group members of staff have presented them with baby daughters. Congratulations to Mr. Roy Dawson, Senior Assistant (Wages Section), and his wife on the birth of Ruth Andrea; and to Mr. John Tetlock, Senior Clerk (Fittings Accounts Section), and his wife on the birth of Helen Elizabeth.

Your 'Link-Up' Reporters :

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