KRIEG-CAMPBELL FAMILY DOCUMENTS

1939-03-23 S-27 WLK to LFR.docx

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE Macel 23, 1939 stution (5-2 Secret Minie and aut Mie, I nght the shot for delaying so long in answeing your two hick letters, Verbecially quile you were us kind as to send Vane \$5.00 for Christmas. It is that that are done reen very may this stally have no excuse, ensuined, for fite your to second tetter arrived, so of will just say that it are territy sorry Chiny to as setter next. mir Christmes letter with arbived elecenter 22 - just in time. Alled a lovely sicture Chiratures der and you have abilady read that finic Cufer's till

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

March 23, 1939 Stuttgart

Dearest Ninnie and Aunt Vonie,

I ought to be shot for delaying so long in answering your

two nice letters, especially since you were so kind as to send me

\$5.00 for Christmas. It is true that we have been very busy, but I

really have no excuse, especially after your second letter arrived,

so I will just say that I am terribly sorry and that I'll try to do

better next time.

Your Christmas letter with the money arrived December

22 – just in time. We had a lovely picture Christmas here, and you

have already read from Jennie Owen's letter

2. use then of Thenght where children arero when anoulat the Repard 11101 mul this room, and I have a sort of cony

2.

how I celebrated it. I really enjoyed myself much more than I thought I would, the reason being, I suppose, that I was where children were all the time.

Right at this very moment I am envying you your warm climate even more than usual. Although this is theoretically the second day of Spring, it has been snowing more or less continuously during the last three days. The snow is not staying on the streets, but melts periodically, making it very wet and nasty. There is a strong, cold, wet wind that is very penetrating. Altogether, Spring is getting off to a bad start. To make things worse, when I came home this evening, I found no one here, no fire in the heater, and no coal to make one with. It can't be over 60° in this room, and I have a sort of comfort

alound we trying to keep fine pressing. This and very anno to daulerous to express Tere Fein allesu Cellin addless inspected and my and asking stary lear is any view bour into Inericulturated

around me trying to keep from freezing. This isn't the first time this has happened and I am very annoyed. In your letter you inquired whether it was dangerous to express your opinion and whether I could write what I want to. I do not think you need hesitate to say anything you wish when you write to me, and I have been expressing my opinion very freely in letters. So far as I know, only one of my letters addressed to the Consulate has been inspected and only one on the way out. They are powerless to touch me so long as I only write and talk freely to foreigners: if I were to "propagandize" among Germans, it would be a breach of international etiquette, and the German government would be justified in asking for my recall. However, if any of the officials were interested in my viewpoint, I

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would be were. Than hadke to explain it Them - with gentutes intance & wight I think the seizere fithe sump to that and bet after the action Dam melines decided to reconsider his provises why a few unites ago was the artich the country counce setuction finds itself. seend wan in the lemonics unistry, give on tatented lave of absence because ar alleged newmo breakdown, and he is reposted to have said some very seculiar things. Query them was that it would be for germany to continue the second Seathelin for the amaments program.

would be more than happy to explain it to them – with gestures! For instance, I might tell them that I think the seizure of the rump of Czechoslovakia that was left after the October paring was a disgraceful proceedure. I am inclined to believe that the real reason why Hitler decided to reconsider his promises of only a few months ago was the difficult economic situation in which the country now finds itself. Dr. Rudolf Brinkmann, the second man in the economics university, has recently gone on extended leave of absence because of an alleged nervous breakdown, and he is reported to have said some very peculiar things. Among them was that it would be impossible for Germany to continue the present rate of steel production for the armaments program,

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE each cannon was coaling Times an unch user they can tell have some to have dura They and las ne and file guns, Alternas /Sen there is and a scar serve cos e Cocoa interd 100 head and about their a week in the average.

and that each cannon was costing Germany about eight times as much as what other countries pay, because of the use of expensive substitute materials to avoid imports. While of course I have no way of telling whether they can keep it up or not, I do know that they have gone to great extremes in attempting to get more iron. Nearly all the iron park railings in Germany have disappeared: they are probably occupying a place of honor in one of the new frontiers in the form of snappy new anti-aircraft guns. Besides the shortages I mentioned in my former letter, there is now a scarcity of coffee, and all the cafés are displaying signs "Save coffee - drink tea." I now have cocoa instead of coffee for breakfast about twice a week on the average,

which I do not really object to. One sign (s-reading " The german wave thinks ten " was so abound it was taken down, as the germans have always been great coffee divikers and care July understely about I me thing are can be quite sure: this used assument sace is improvenin the people of every country and its continuance genuary is freed into to sheered Ally. these used international struges in the atten I gain acore raw matchials to support lawmanent programs, and the rest of the un sempthy follows suit by helding are and are. Eventually some one will go to far, and the terrible was will start which will wear of the end of European civilization and the economic discipling the entre world. that a pleasant prospect, is it ? But to date there appears no light mitte livingou

which I do not really object to. One sign reading "The German man drinks tea" was so absurd it was taken down, as the Germans have always been great coffee drinkers and care only moderately about tea.

Of one thing we can be guite sure: this mad armament race is impoverishing the people of every country, and its continuance is sheerest folly. Germany is forced into these mad international flings in the attempt to gain more raw materials to support his armament programs, and the rest of the world promptly follows suit by building more and more. Eventually some one will go too far, and the terrible war will start which will mean the end of European civilization and the economic disruption of the entire world. Not a pleasant prospect, is it? But to date there appears no light on the horizon.

I am going to ask oner permission to (21) stop berefas it veeders to be getting colder and whater I certainly and going to raise the dickens with the Vand bely in the arming. I lope you are both well and being a read fine Spring. Chave! & guess & A retter crawl in red to get brann. P.S. I just woliced of right to cay "Newdo for the Christmas gift. I hope to take it with we out of Generary when I went leave and put tot some fery good use.

I am going to ask your permission to stop here as it seems to be getting colder and colder. I certainly am going to raise the dickens with the land lady in the morning. I hope you are both well and having a really fine Spring. Oh me! I guess I'd better crawl in bed to get warm

With loads of love,

William

P.S. I just noticed I forgot to say "Thanks" for the Christmas gift.

I hope to take it with me out of Germany when I next leave and

put to some very good use.

KRIEG-CAMPBELL FAMILY DOCUMENTS

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1939-03-23 23.3.39 AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE ulleast Germany S-27env Mas. Charles ? Choods 1234 South What second st. Miami, Horida Über Savre, wit Sampfer Armendie Griles



American Consular Service

Stuttgart, Germany

Mrs. Charles F. Rhoads

1234 South West Second St.

Miami, Florida

<u>U.S.A</u>

<u>Über</u> Havre, mit Dampfer <u>Normandie</u>

Abs[ender].: W. L. Krieg Amerikanisches Konsulat Stuttgart