

IN REPLY REFER TO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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AMERICAN CONSULATE ~~GENERAL~~
Stuttgart, Germany
April 23, 1939

Dear Dad:-

After some perfectly wonderful spring weather, we have gone back to cold for a while. Of course my economical land-lady has long ago given up the idea of having any heat; they regulate the heat here by the calendar, not the temperature. My hands are so cold now I can barely hit the keys, so you can expect even more mistakes than usual.

I am glad to report that the box arrived last Wednesday in good shape, so far as the contents were concerned. Thank you very much for buying the articles; are you sure the \$3.96 was enough to cover the cost? If there was any more, just let me know. Did you intend to send two or three bottles of hair tonic? One of the three bottles was absolutely empty. The cap had come off and the contents were gone, if indeed there had ever been any. It must of happened before you packed it, as there were no traces of anything's having run out into the carton. The bottle was absolutely clean, and did not have a drop in it, so I suspect it was either never filled at all, or else drained out between the factory and Newark. I am certain that it didn't come open after you packed it.

I really hit the jackpot the day that box arrived. My cigarettes came in at the same time, just as I was on the last package, and had been piecing that out for three days by smoking Camels in between. Smoking Camels reduces my consumption considerably, as they are stronger and I do not like them so well. Also on the same day came three cans of powdered coffee from Switzerland. I don't remember whether I mentioned in my last letter that I left five francs with my friend there to buy me as much instantaneous coffee as he could buy and mail for that sum. This coffee is put out by the Nestle Company, who are principally known as milk chocolate producers, and is similar to the G. Washington coffee. I tried it while I was there, and liked it very much. It has proved to be a big improvement over what the land lady used to make, especially recently that coffee is so hard to get. Apparently they are going to start rationing it, too, as she told me the other day that she was going to sign up in advance to get coffee about a week later. If all these requests are cleared through one central office, they can easily prevent one person's putting in two orders at different stores. Now I think I will write to the Nestle company and find out if we can't get an order wholesale here; several of the fellows in the office appear to be interested in trying it out.

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You asked about how the radio reception has been. I am not home very much in the evening, and consequently do not listen to the radio very much. Then there is a fellow in the next room to me, and I do not like to turn on the short wave after midnight for fear the crackles and buzzes which always go with it will waken him. The last few times I have tried the radio it was not very satisfactory. A couple of nights ago I got the six o'clock news broadcast from WIXAL - Boston - fairly clearly. Last night reception was bad. I couldn't get WIXAL at all, and caught W2XE on the 25 meter band just as they were signing off. The 31 meter band was lousy; I could just barely hear where the American stations were, but none were good enough to enjoy listening to. Although reception is generally supposed to be better in the winter, I have found that the summer broadcasts on the 19 meter band come in better than the winter broadcasts on the longer waves. Last September I used to be able to get America regularly, and also several of the South American Stations. This winter about all I get is Moscow, which comes in louder even than the German and British stations on the short wave bands.

It is astonishing how expensive good radios are here in Germany. So far as reception and tone are concerned, for instance, the radio I am using here is no better than the \$25 set I had at the Fletcher School, but it would cost about RM.240 - almost \$100 - if I were to buy it. Lots of people have radios, but they are very simple sets which will only pick up a few local stations. If my set were adapted to the current here, I could sell it for about twice what it cost.

I now have a new colleague here. Boise C. Hart, Jr. arrived about three weeks ago, and has of course started to work. He has just entered the Service, and so is a student Vice Consul like myself. He's a very nice chap, a native of no particular place, as his father was connected with the foreign branches of the National City Bank of New York and was abroad much of the time. His father and mother are now divorced, so he doesn't have any money any more. Even so, he says he doubts if he will save any money here. All I can say is, he must have more expensive tastes than I do, as I couldn't spend all my money if I tried; that is, not if you take my Welsh character into consideration.

Very little has happened in the last week, so I might as well wind this up. Oh yes! I have just been trying out the oatmeal cookies, and they are very good. I want to thank whoever made them very much indeed. They arrived in excellent condition, and seem to be perfectly fresh. I like the flavor very much; they really show a master's touch.

With love to all,



