

# Hotel Graf Zeppelin Stuttgart

GEGENÜBER DEM HAUPTBAHNHOF  
VORNEHMES CAFÉ - RESTAURANT IM I. STOCK  
LEITUNG: A. REICHERT · FERNSPRECHER 22 431/34

S-7 P1/4

July 10, 1938

Transcription  
on pages 5-6.

ABSENDER IST NICHT DAS HOTEL

Dear Minny and Aunt Marie: -

I was very happy to get your letter, which came a little over a week ago. I have having a lot of difficulty in keeping up my correspondence, and I know the family must feel that I'm neglecting them, but I'm doing the best I can. Now I'll try to answer your questions.

In the first place, you need have no fears about my personal safety, as everything is quiet and well-organized here. I feel much safer in the back streets and poor sections of town here than I would in Boston; the police are very efficient and hold-ups and robberies are much less frequent than at home. Of course, in case of war, as we know what would happen, but I don't think we need to worry about that.

I am living in the hotel whose name appears on the letter-head and which, as you have probably guessed, is named for the inventor of the zeppelin. Friedrichshafen, the German dirigible center, is only a few miles from here, and one of the officers from our consulate used to go down there to arrange the visas ~~from~~ for persons making the trip to America by air. I have a single room, comfortably furnished with bath and all modern conveniences. The hotel was only built a few years ago and is therefore delightfully new and

pleasant. It is rather expensive, but as my rent is <sup>S-7 P. 21</sup> paid by the government, there is no particular value in economizing.

The food here is somewhat different from American food, but not nearly so different as I had supposed it would be. It is mostly a matter of learning new names for familiar dishes. In fact, I have concluded that I have been eating German food all my life. However, I have not seen milk since I have been here, as it is never used as a table beverage, it can be bought in limited quantities. Cream is said to be hard to get, especially during the winter, except for infants and with a doctor's orders. Eggs are not very plentiful, altho I have had omelets in restaurants. The ice cream is very thin and poor in quality; it is obviously made with as little real cream as possible. It is usually made very sweet to compensate for its lack of richness, and I don't particularly care for it.

One of the hardest things to get used to was not having water served with meals. People rarely drink the ordinary tap water, which is very hard and has an unpleasant taste. Beer is standard, with light wines a close second. Mineral waters of various kinds are also popular; I have found one that tastes less mineral than the tap water, and often drink that with my meals. As many foreigners come to this hotel, it is possible to get plain water here without extra charge, but in most places they think that water is only for washing.

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with the issuance of immigration visas. Our immigration laws permit the admission of about 27,000 persons annually from Germany (including Austria). Before 1933 the quota was lower, but since then decreasing numbers of people, mostly Jewish, have been applying. We must see that every person has definite evidence that they will not become public charges in the United States. This is done by securing affidavits from relatives or friends, accompanied by proof that they are financially able to undertake the support of the intending immigrants. It is contrary to law to extend offers of employment, except to certain types of people - college professors, ministers, domestic servants, nurses and a few others.

No applicants applications for visas are taken until satisfactory evidence is submitted as to the financial backing. After this, we invite a certain number - at present 100 a day - to appear for physical examination by Public Health Service doctors, and for final examination by a board consisting of a consular officer and an immigration inspector from the Dept. of Labor. They are assisted by a clerk who prepares the papers and acts as interpreter. For the last two weeks I have been on this

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board. My main job consists in signing any name at least seven times on each visa issued, and some days we have issued as many as 91. Thus you see that I have to write my name about 700 times daily, and about 6:30 P.M. it gets pretty tiresome. However, I get to hear lots of German and frequently also have to speak it, so that I get lots of good practice. For this reason I like the hard work, altho it is quite fatiguing. Everyone in our office works terribly hard, and we are afraid that some of the clerks may break down at any time. One did, and had to have over a week's vacation. If any of the more important clerks had to quit, we would be sunk, as we have to handle over 300 pieces of incoming mail daily. Last month we issued over 1500 visas, which makes ours the largest immigration visa office in the world.

I understand there is some agitation beginning in favor of further restricting immigration. While I have no personal fondness for Jews, I would certainly be opposed to shutting the only door of escape for them from the living hell that they endure in Germany. There is no sharp practice - as "Jew trick" - that is not being used to extort from these people every penny of their legitimate savings, and then to throw them penniless into a hostile world. It is no one's fault to be born Jewish, and while, as I said before, I avoid them socially, I would oppose to the last ditch any attempt to take away from these their right to exist. That is what is happening here in Germany today.

I hope you are both well, and send you all my love.  
William.

[Transcription]



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Dear Ninny and Aunt Vonie:-

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