

Handwritten original is reproduced beginning on page 4.



ABSENDER IST NICHT DAS HOTEL

August 6, 1938

Dear Dad:

Your letter of July 26 arrived yesterday, and for once I will try to answer it promptly, especially as it is over a week since I last wrote. I also owe Janie a letter, which I will try to get off during the coming week. I am glad that you asked several questions, as I do not always know just what you would be interested in hearing about.

Last Thursday the first of the Newark visitors dropped in. Dr. Butler arrived about in the middle of the afternoon and called the Consulate from the railroad station. I was greatly surprised to have any body appear from Newark at all, and a trifle confused trying to remember any Dr. Butler. I met him after work at the hotel and took him to the Stadtgarten, which is a place run by the city where you can get good meals and see acts of vaudeville during or after the meal, depending on how early you get there. Besides this open air pavilion there are lovely gardens, laid out with all kinds of beautiful flowers and a small amount of statuary. It is an extremely popular place in summer, and was quite crowded Thursday night. I was greatly disappointed in the program; two of the acts were comedians, and neither of us could understand what it was all about. Besides this, the Master of Ceremony made a long spiel between each act, but we could have endured it if the acts had been better. There was a very mediocre wild animal act, the "wild" animals consisting of four elderly tame bears, who know the act so well they could hardly wait to do their stuff and get it over with. The other acts were dancing teams and acrobats, which were somewhat better.

After the Stadtgarten we went to a larger restaurant where there is an orchestra. There we had a slight accident. Dr. Butler upset his beer in my direction; instinctively I jumped up, hitting my knee on the table and knocking over my beer glass. I was beer from about chest level on down, and to add to the commotion, my glass fell on the floor and broke. Butler also got a large dose in his lap, but we laughed it off and had another beer while waiting for our clothes to dry out enough to go home. In spite of all the unfavorable circumstances, the evening was a success, I think, and I enjoyed very much seeing some one from home.

The next morning we met for breakfast, and Butler ordered an American type breakfast; ham and eggs and toast. This was the first time I have ever seen it attempted here, as I always eat

the regular breakfast, which consists of rolls, jam and coffee. The American style breakfast was not a howling success. They give you boiled ham fried in with the eggs, which is not too bad although hardly up to our standards. But the toast was simply ludicrous – little dried out shriveled up pieces, burnt in some places and not even brown in others. Toast is simply not eaten in Germany, and I am surprised the waiter even knew what it was. However, I think perhaps he was just back from a training period in England. They frequently send waiters and bell boys there to learn English. After breakfast I took Dr. Butler to the train for Munich, where he was going to inspect another clinic. More of the people you mentioned in your letter have showed up.

Then there is the matter of food, which can be disposed of fairly quickly. Personally, I like the style of cooking, etc., fairly well, although I get tired of eating in restaurants. It is virtually the same as we have at home, with a few minor exceptions. Most Americans dislike the food here because it is so heavy and filling, but it is only once in a while that I get something which is really too much for me. Unfortunately, that happened this noon. I ordered some fish without any idea of how it would be prepared, and was confronted by a horrible agglomeration in a large deep dish. It developed that three pieces of fish were immersed in a sea of liquid spinach, with cheese grated over the top. One look was enough to kill my appetite, but I waded through most of it. Whether food is expensive or not depends on whether you figure the mark at 2.5 or 4.2 to the dollar. I can get a very good one course meal, with soup and desert, no drink, in this hotel, the best in town, for R.M. 2.50. That is either \$1.00, at the high rate, or 65¢ (approximately) at the low. The first is quite high for what you get, and the second is quite reasonable. I usually pay from R.M. 1.20 to 1.80 for food, about 30 to 50 pfennings for water or beer. This does not include desert, which I practically never eat, as the meals are so large you don't have room for anything else.

I was greatly amused by your saying that it must be cool here, although in general you are right. This week, however, we have been having a terrible heat wave. It has been terribly hot and especially hard on the Germans because they're not used to it. I have no idea how hot it's been, but it is hot even by American standards. That light-weight suit I got at Rutledge's before I left has been coming n very handily, as even my light gray suit (now at the cleaner's having the beer stains removed) has seemed unbearably hot. Just tonight a thunder shower has cleared the air, and it is now quite comfortable. Probably it will be cloudy and cool tomorrow, as I have made arrangements to go swimming for the first time in nearly a month.

Harlan Clark (Zürich) told me some one had been in the office to see him from Newark. I suppose it was Mrs. Steinmeier. Apparently she is interested in some immigration case. He asked her if she knew you, and she said "Yes, very well."

Our force of clerks keeps changing so rapidly that we never know from one day to the next just how many there are going to be. L'Heureux recently sent an urgent cable to the Dep't. for more help, as two clerks have broken down from overwork. Much to our surprise we received authority to hire four extra people for two months. I think the total possible staff is 24 clerks for the whole Consulate, about 16 or 17 of whom are in the visa section. There are seven officers, not counting the Immigration Inspector of the Labor Dep't. and two U. S. Public Health Service doctors. Four of the seven are always on visas; one is shifted around to take up the slack when others are on leave.

Last month was fairly successful for me financially. I finally received the settlement of my travel account. It amounted to \$68.07 plus \$18.46 appreciation. This, in connection with my salary, has enabled me to have a draft drawn for \$250, which I expect to send off to the Park National Bank the first of the week. In spite of this I still have R.M. 472 left for expenses. I would not need so much if I did not have to pay for the hotel room, as my rent allowance has not yet been approved. It should arrive some time this month, and will be a tidy sum, since I have been paying all my rent for June and July myself. I see no reason why I cannot save the face value of my salary and live on the appreciation. Of course I haven't had to buy any clothes or anything yet, and eventually I will have to do so. Next winter I expect to make a trip to England to see England, Louis Frechtling and Mardi Smith, when all these are together. I will probably have some leave at that time. It really is a big change from last summer, when I was unable to save as much as \$100 the whole summer. However, I really miss home and friends and the old swimming pool.

I have not found out anything about any cameras yet. There are so many different kinds and sizes that an ignorant purchaser, like myself, is completely bewildered. However, I will keep my eyes open. I doubt if it would be feasible to send one out before I come, as the duties are quite high.

When I was in Paris, I bought travelers checks for 100 R.M. at a fairly low rate. On arriving here I was advised not to use them, as they are for tourists only. I mailed them to Paris and asked the Am. Express to send the order to you to help cover the insurance. I am enclosing a withdrawal slip for \$20 for the rest. Please remind me if I owe you any more money for the lodge dues or anything else, and I will send another blank. This is a rather awkward way to do it, but I think I will let it ride until I come home again.

With love and best wishes to all,

William

Rec'd 8/20/38

Hotel Graf Zeppelin Stuttgart

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

S-8 p 1/6

ABSENDER IST NICHT DAS HOTEL

August 6, 1938.

Dear Dad:

Your letter of July 26 arrived yesterday, and for once I will try to answer it promptly, especially as it is over a week since I last wrote. I also owe you a letter, which I will try to get off during the coming week. I am glad that you asked several questions, as I do not always know just what you would be interested in hearing about.

Last Thursday the first of the Newark visitors dropped in. Mr. Butler called about in the middle of the afternoon and called the Consulate from the railroad station. I was greatly surprised to have any body appear from Newark at all, and a trifle confused trying to remember any Mr. Butler. I met him after work at the hotel and took him to the Stadtgarten, which is a place run by the city where you can get good meals and see acts of considerable during or after the meal, depending on how early you get there. Besides this open air pavilion there are lovely gardens, laid out with all kinds of state beautiful fountains and a small amount of statuary. It is an extremely popular place in summer, and was quite crowded Thursday night. I was greatly disappointed in the program; two of the acts were comedians, and neither of us could understand

S-8 p7/6

about it was all about. Besides this, the Master of Ceremony made a long spiel between each act, but we could have endured it if the acts ~~was~~ had been better. There was a very mediocre wild animal act, the "wild" animals consisting of four elderly tame bears, who know the act so well they could hardly wait to do their stuff and get it over with. The other acts were dancing teams and acrobats, which were somewhat better.

After the start-up we went to a Caper restaurant where there is an orchestra. There we had a slight accident. Mr. Butler upset his beer in my direction; instinctively I jumped up, hitting my face on the table and knocking over my beer glass. I was beer from about chest level on down, and to add to the commotion, my glass fell on the floor and broke. Butler also got a large dose in his Cap, but we laughed it off and had another beer while waiting for our clothes to dry out enough to go home. In spite of all these unfavorable circumstances the evening was a success, I think, and I enjoyed very much seeing some one from home.

The next morning we went for breakfast, and Butler ordered an American Style breakfast: ham and eggs and toast. This was the first time I have ever seen it attempted here, as I always eat the regular breakfast, which consists of rolls, jam and coffee. The American Style breakfast was not a howling success. They give you boiled ham fried in butter the

Hotel Graf Zeppelin Stuttgart

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

S-8 p3/6

ABSENDER IST NICHT DAS HOTEL

eggs, which is not too bad either hardly up to our standards. But the toast was simply ludicrous - little dried out, shriveled up ~~too~~ pieces, burnt in some places and not even brown in others. That is simply not eaten in Germany, and I am surprised the waiter even knew what it was. However, I think perhaps he was just back from a training period in England. My frequently read waiters and bell boys there to learn English. After breakfast I took Mr. Butler to the train for Munich, where he was going to inspect another clinic. Some of the people you mentioned in your letter have showed up.

Now there is the matter of food, which can be disposed of fairly quickly. Personally, I like the style of cooking, etc., fairly well, though I get tired of eating in restaurants. It is virtually the same as we have at home, with a few minor exceptions. Most Americans dislike the food here because it is so heavy and filling, but it is only once in a while that I get something which is really too much for me. Unfortunately, that happened this noon. I ordered some fish without any idea of how it would be prepared, and was confronted by a horrible agglomeration in a large deep dish. It developed that three pieces of fish were immersed in a sea of liquid

5-8 p4/6

spinach, with cheese grated over the top. One look was enough to kill my appetite, but I would through most of it. Whether food is expensive or not depends on whether you figure the week at 2.5 or 4.2 to the dollar. I can get a very good one course meal, with soup and dessert, up drink, in this hotel, the best in town, for RM. 2.50. That is either \$1.00, at the high rate, or 65¢ (approximately) at the low. The first is quite high for what you get, and the second is quite reasonable. Usually pay from RM. 1.20 to 1.80 for food, about 30 to 50 pennings for water or beer. This does not include dessert, which I practically never eat, as the meals are so large you don't have room for anything else.

I was greatly amused by your saying that it must be cool here, altho in general you are right. This week, however, we have been having a terrific heat wave. It has been terribly hot and especially hard on the Germans because they're not used to it. I have no idea how hot it is here, but it is hot even by American standards. That light-weight suit I got at Rutledge's before left has been coming in very badly, as even my light gray suit (and at the cleaners having the beer stains removed) has seemed unbearably hot. Just tonight a thunder shower has cleared the air, and it is now quite comfortable. Probably it will be cloudy and cool tomorrow, so I have made arrangements to go swimming for the first time in nearly a month.

Harlan Clark ^(quietly) told me someone had been in the office to see him from Newark. I suppose it was Mrs. Steiner. Apparently she is interested in some immigration case. He asked her if she knew you, and she said "Yes, very well."

Hotel Graf Zeppelin Stuttgart

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

S-8 p 5/6

ABSENDER IST NICHT DAS HOTEL

Our force of clerks keeps changing so rapidly that we never know from one day to the next just how many there are going to be. L. Keupoux recently sent an urgent cable to the Dep't. for more help, as two clerks have broken down from overwork. Much to our surprise we received authority to hire four extra people for two months. I think the total possible staff is 34 clerks for the whole Consulate, about 16 or 17 of whom are in the visa section. There are seven officers, not counting the Immigration Inspector of the Labor Dep't. and two U.S. Public Health Service doctors. Four of the seven are always on visas; one is shifted around to take up the slack when others are on leave.

Last month was fairly successful for me financially. I finally received the settlement of my travel account. It amounted to \$68.07 plus \$18.46 appreciation. This, in connection with my salary, has enabled me to have a draft drawn for \$250, which I expect to send off to the Park National Bank the first of the week. In spite of this I still have P.M. 472 left for expenses. I would not need so much if I did not have to pay for the hotel room, as my rent allowance has not yet been approved. It should arrive some time this

S-8 p6/6

month, and will be a big sum, since I have been paying all my rent for June and July myself. I see no reason why I cannot save the face value of my salary and live on the appreciation. Of course I haven't ~~been~~ ^{had} to ~~buy~~ any clothes or anything yet, and eventually I will have to do so. Next winter I expect to make a trip to England to see England, Louis Fickling and Mardi Smith, when all three are together. I will probably have some leave at that time. It really is a big change from last summer, when I was able to leave as much as \$100 the whole summer. However, I really miss home and friends and the old swimming pool.

I have not found out anything about any cameras yet. There are so many different kinds and sizes that an ignorant purchaser, like myself, is completely bewildered. However, I will keep my eyes open. I doubt if it would be feasible to send one out before I come, as the duties are quite high.

When I was in Paris, I bought travellers checks for 100 RM. at a fairly low rate. On arriving here I was advised not to use them, as they are for tourists only. I mailed them to Paris and asked the Am. Express to send the order to you to help cover the insurance. I am enclosing a withdrawal slip for \$20. for the rest. Please remind me if I owe you any more money for lodge dues or anything else, and I will send another check. This is a rather awkward way to do it, but I think I will let it ride until I come home again.

With love and best wishes to all,
William

