

Stuttgart, Germany
October 12, 1938

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Dear Dad:

I want to thank you very much for your present and for the cable that you and Janie sent. I know you will be pleased to hear that the package arrived here yesterday, just in time for my birthday. The brushes were especially acceptable, as my old ones were getting pretty weak and in bad shape. The nice leather case makes them especially convenient for travelling. The tie is very pretty and should go well with my blue suit. You will doubtless be able to figure the time the package took in transit from the date of its arrival. Your letter saying the package had been sent arrived several days earlier. Thank you both very much. I only wish the restrictions on importation into the United States weren't so strict, as I have seen several nice things here that I would like to send to you and Janie and Dorothy. At the present I'll have to limit myself to best wishes. The wishes go particularly to you in view of your birthday, which will be coming along in a few days. I wish I could find a suitable card to send to Grandpa, but I rather doubt whether I can.

My only celebration for the birthday was to move into a different room in my apartment. You may recall my saying that I had made arrangements to get a prettier room on the first of October. When the time actually came, the land lady proved most reluctant to deliver the goods. I could understand her point of view, as it is undoubtedly the best room in the apartment, and one of the best furnished rooms I have seen in Stuttgart, commanding a marvelous view of the city. On the other hand, when I looked over the apartment in August, I said, both personally and through an interpreter, so that there could be no possibility of misunderstanding, that I would consider moving in only if this room were available, and as she did not want to turn it over immediately, I compromised on the first of October. She did everything possible to discourage me: she said the room was difficult to heat in the winter, due to the large number of windows; I have no doubt this is true. Then she said she thought it would not be practicable to have the door between that room and my bed room opened, as it would spoil the beauty of the living room. I said I was willing to leave the door closed and go through the hall. In other words, I was polite but firm. The reason for this was that Mr. Honaker had said he would come to call on me to see if the quarters were suitable; he did not say it, but the implication is that if they were not, he would recommend a reduction in rent allowance to Washington, and I know that he has done that in one case. Furthermore, I had bragged so much about my beautiful room, that I would never be able to explain how it happened that I didn't have it. Finally, I was annoyed that she should try to get out of an agreement that she had entered into voluntarily in August. As a result, I moved my books and other personal belongings in last night, gave the lady a glass of port wine to make her feel better, and settled

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back to get things straightened around. This morning a man appeared to move the furniture so that the doors in between could be opened! I only hope that she will not start out deliberately to freeze me out this winter in retaliation.

I am sorry that I do not have your letter here, so that I cannot comment on anything you said. Things are very quiet here since the crisis ended, and you may be very sure that we are glad the danger is passed. I suppose the settlement made was the only sensible one, but at the same time one hates to see the Germans get away with everything. It appears now that they are even getting the areas not promised in the Munich agreement, so that the net result is a 100 per cent victory. If they are content to stop now, all should be well, and I hope that they will. I think there is a good chance, but most of the Americans here are very skeptical.

The only break in the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ monotony that is in sight at the present time is a trip to Heidelberg that I am projecting for next Saturday. I suppose you have heard that I met a very attractive Irish girl who is studying and teaching there, and just today I received word from her that Saturday would be satisfactory. I am very glad indeed to have this chance to see Heidelberg. It is one of the few places I can go with complete legality, as it is in our consular district. Theoretically, I am not allowed to go out of this district for six months after my arrival, and if anyone goes outside of Germany, they are supposed to report it and lose their currency appreciation for the time they are out of the country. Needless to say, these rules are honored more in the breach than in the observance; one of the foremost violators is the Consul General, who frequently takes little trips here and there without anyone's being supposed to know where he is. The secret usually leaks out though.

The weather during the last month or six weeks has been marvelous, making up, to a large extent, for the terribly damp, cool weather that we had all summer. It has been clear almost every day, and the nights have been cool but not cold. I only hope that it will continue over the week-end, although I have little hopes of this, as it has rained every week-end but one that I have been out of Stuttgart yet.

I don't know why it is, but I don't seem to be able to think of anything else to say. I had a letter from Billy Ashbrook the other day thanking me for my letter. He said he expects to have a hard fight against this Townshend Planner, and in an enclosed note Paul Ashbrook suggested I might like to vote. He sent along an application which I filled out and sent back immediately. I will only be able to vote if they send out the ballots immediately, and even then it will be a close shave. However, I am hoping that I will be able to do my bit for Uncle Billy and the others. Let me know how the election is coming along. If you find any good press articles, you might send them over. Thanks again, best wishes, and love,

If you have any favorites in the local election, let me know as I probably won't know anything about them.
William

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