

IN REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Stuttgart, Germany
June 12, 1939

Dear Dad:-

I'm really sorry that I've taken so longer to reply to your letters, but this easy-going life (outside of the office, of course) is just a bit too much for me. I have a terrible time getting home from dinner earlier than ten or ten-thirty, and by that time I'm usually too tired to start writing.

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~~I wonder if this will catch Janie before she leaves?~~
It should arrive on June 20th, and she is to sail on ~~the~~ June 21st, according to the schedule she sent me. I suppose that after you wrote your letter of May 27th you and Janie received my letter of May 21st addressed to Janie. The plan as I outlined it there still stands as far as I am concerned, assuming that my leave is not cancelled in the last moment. I will meet Janie in Cologne the ~~nineteen~~ 26th of July, and we will take the Rhine trip, which is part of the regular itinerary of the tour. From Mainz we will return to Stuttgart and stay long enough for Janie to rest from the continuous traveling, which I should think would become very tiresome after a while, and get her washing done. I am naturally anxious to have her meet my friends and associates here, as well as see the place where I do my work.

We will make our plans for the rest of the trip from here, and let the weather be the guiding feature. We can go through Munich to Vienna and return through the Austrian Tyrol to Switzerland. Mrs. Spalding will be there during the summer, and while I haven't said anything to her about it, I imagine we could stay there for a day or two. The place where she lives is between Zurich and Lucerne, on a beautiful lake in an ideal situation. Hervé has seen it and says it is marvelous. Personally, I like trips much better which aren't too thoroughly planned in advance, and I think Janie and I can enjoy ourselves a great deal deciding where we want to go when the time comes. If Janie hasn't left when this arrives, you must tell her to let me know her forwarding addresses, so that I can communicate with her after she arrives. Although I shall probably go to England after the 1st of July, she can write to the Consulate, and I will have the mail sent on from there, or I can inform her where to write to me. While of course I want to be in touch with her all the time, it is particularly important to know what hotel they will be in in Cologne, so I will know where to find her.

As you know from the card I sent you from Como, I had a lovely trip over the Pfingsten-Memorial Day holidays. I originally hoped that I would be able to go with my friends in

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Switzerland to the French Riviera, but it turned out that I would not have enough time. The weather had been solidly bad here for six weeks, and I was so sick of it that I wanted to get away at almost any cost. Hart and I just took ~~the~~ time-table Friday afternoon and looked to see how far we could go in the time we had. I suggested we might try Lugano, which is on the south side of the Alps in Switzerland, in the hope that the weather might be better there. Hart suggested going just across the border into Italy, to Como. Some one in the Consulate had a tourist pamphlet describing the lake of Como, and it certainly looked very good; nor were we disappointed.

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We left Stuttgart Saturday afternoon, intending to go straight through to Como. The trip takes between nine and ten hours, which meant that the last part of the trip would be at night. Half way through Switzerland we missed a connection, due largely to misinformation, and decided instead to spend ~~the night in Lucerne, which proved to be well worth while.~~ We got to see a little of Lucerne, and then had the rest of the trip by day-light. It was marvelous. The scenery was grand, and after going through the St. Gotthard tunnel, we found gorgeous weather on the other side of the Alps, just as we had hoped. As I indicated in the cards, we spent the time traveling around the lake in lake steamers. It is really indescribable; one has to see it to believe that such beauty exists. The greatest triumph of the trip, however, was the expense. We were in Italy from Sunday noon till Tuesday morning, had a good hotel room with bath, ate excellent meals, traveled all around, and it only cost me \$12.35 for the whole time. Of course the railroad fare was somewhat more - about \$22, and we dropped a few dollars in Switzerland, coming and coming, but considering the distance we went and the fun we had, it was not expensive.

also giving

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I have been shifted over to a different kind of work at the Consulate recently. Spalding is gone, and Teller is on vacation, and I have taken over part of their work. I spend part of my day on correspondence and part of special cases, such as rabbis and persons trying to get preference as skilled agriculturalists. ~~It is a break in my routine, and I have had a couple of very difficult dispatches to write to the Department.~~ One contained the results of a long investigation I made into the question of holding rabbinical office in Germany, and Hervé hopes I may get more than an average grade on it at the Department. It has had the effect of putting us on much firmer ground in handling this complicated question, or will, if the Department does not disagree.

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I am going to quit now, as it is getting late, and I don't want to keep the house awake. I am glad to hear that Finny and Aunt Vonie got home all right, and hope you will show them this letter and give them all my love. I owe them a letter, but now that they can read what I send to you, it is not quite so urgent. Also my love to Grandpa, Betty, Dotty. While I am enjoying myself much more now than I used to, I still wish I could come home and see you all. I guess I'm just a home boy after all.

With all my love,

William

