

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

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Italy, 31 July

Dear Little Mama:

It doesn't seem long ago that I wrote you last -- acknowledging Papa's agreeable intelligence and the arrival of typie dear (which, as these lines may prove, functions most smoothly and reliably). Since then, however, I received, 1.) another noteworthy package, with welcome Luckies and sweeties, and, 2.) another dead epistula, No. 31, of July 17. As for "la Grande Illusion," to which you refer in your letter -- there is, alas, no reason to be worried: not in the sense you may have had in mind. The illusion, started under peculiar circumstances, never materialized and is not likely to do so, for the time being... This, in itself, would of course be a rather saddening experience; but, first, there still are certain hopes (if only of a rather vague nature) for future fulfilments -- and besides, the last convulsions of Nazism are so absorbingly interesting that it seems somewhat difficult to concentrate on anything else. Let's hope that the macabre agony won't last too long and won't cost too many lives: I feel infinitely sorry for anybody who has to sacrifice his life, at this point of the war, when everything is decided and the slaughter only prolonged by Hitler's desperate cynicism and the abysmal stupidity and servility of the German people (Gott strafe Tillich!). Here at HQ, there are officers who make bets that the whole show (in Europe) will be over in a week from now -- which may be a little exaggerated. But it won't last many weeks anymore, and anything may happen any day... As for my personal status, I don't care so much anymore, as I said ~~also~~ already in my last letter. The problem that has to be solved is only, how to transform me from the good old sarge I am into the O.W.I. civilian I have to become in order to do any effective work. It may become advisable, at a certain point, to approach Elmer himself as regards this matter; but I have first to find out what the conditions and formalities are, in such an unusual case. Just now, I am not so dissatisfied with my status and whereabouts. The weather is pleasant, the food has improved, I have the opportunity of swimming occasionally in the beautiful Mediterranean, and the other day I have even had the privilege of parading for his British Majesty. I am sure Konni is less lucky. But why do you, Erika is not satisfied? I don't like the idea. It is true that I haven't heard from her for many weeks, but that it isn't anything unusual in itself. Regards for Dad, did you have a nice birthday party? Many happy returns!

Dear old

K

Italy, 7 September

Mes chers parents,

This is just a short, somewhat business-like postscriptum to my recent letter from the hospital. (The malaria attack, incidentally, was remarkably light and lasted just for a couple of days. Relapses are of course possible, but not in the very near future...)

Meanwhile I received a preliminary reply to my application for a change of my status (from enlisted man to civilian on P.W.B. duty). There are difficulties, as was to be foreseen. According to present regulations, requests for release from the Armed Forces can be considered only if submitted on, or before, 1 August, 1943 -- and so forth. However, as all regulations, this one does not seem altogether inflexible: exceptions can be made, if the request, or a recommendation, comes from high P.W.B. authorities. I have already written to Robert Sherwood, asking for his support. But, of course, the highest authority, in this organization, remains good old Elmer. So I suppose the moment for a nice paternal letter to him may have come.

What has to be pointed out is: that I expect to be stationed in Allied-occupied Austria or Germany, after the War; that I am a eager, and undoubtedly qualified, to do there all kinds of interesting jobs -- such as radio commentator, journalist, newspaper- or magazine editor, lecturer, or general cultural adviser and contact man. In all of these capacities, however, my present status as an enlisted man could not but be a serious handicap. As I am, furthermore, approaching the end of my 38th year, I have made an application through military channels, asking for a release from the U.S. Armed Forces and at the same time for a job with P.W.B., as an U.S. civilian off overseas duty. With an officer's rank and prestige, I would surely be in a position of doing an infinitely more effective job than I could do in my present condition. The application was favourably received by officers; but there are those technical complications...(Army regulations as mentioned above). Might be possible to overcome difficulties, if O.W.I. leaders -- in other words, E.D. -- express their desire to use me in Germany as a civilian, rather than as a sergeant... That's about it. The War may be over when you get this letter (or when Elmer receives yours). That will change the situation and render it more propitious for my purposes.

That's all, folks. ... I am still with 8th Army, but keep 5th Army as my mailing address. ... What is that queer story I read about Dad writing a screen play with Louis Bromfield, about an often-portrayed French lady, or something? I refuse to believe it. ... Had a long, nice letter from Brother Bib. ... Hope you are all right and enjoy our little victory.

Bohler

*Sohn liest, KLAL'S
HEINRICH*



AMERICAN RED CROSS

North Africa,
?

1944/45

Dearest Mother:

I postponed the writing of this note, as I wanted to wait until I would be in a position to give you my definite APO address. However, it may still take some time before I'll reach my destination: so I decided to say Hello to you, even though I am still "en route."

Besides, I suppose that letters and packages sent to me c/o my temporary APO may reach me with only a slight delay. So I suggest that you wait just 2 or 3 days before answering me (as it might be that I'll

FORM 539 A

2)



AMERICAN RED CROSS

be able to ~~now~~ notify you
of my real APO, in a few
days from now) - but then
just take a chance and
write to me c/o APO
4014, Postmaster New York, N.Y.
- As for the things y'd
like to have sent to
me (if it is not too
much trouble), it may
be wiser to wait for
the other address.

What I want is
1) a fountain pen, as mine
has mysteriously vanished
and cannot be replaced
in this part of the world.
(They are pretty hard
to get in the U.S., too -
y've been told; but y

3)



AMERICAN RED CROSS

think you may manage to
get hold of one, if you
present this urgent request
from the literary soldier
boy overseas ...)

2) Cigarettes — : maybe
2 cartons (20 packs) of
Lucky Strikes, now — and
then one carton each
month (if agreeable).
(They are cheaper here
than "at home", but
rationed; and you know
my weakness ...)

3) Sweets — now, and occasionally
again. Especially: marzipan,
and Lebkuchen (the type
you sent me from N.Y., in
my birthday parcel), and
my plain chocolate. Nothing
too soft or too perishable.
No "drops".

THANKS



FORM 539 A

4)



AMERICAN RED CROSS

What else is there I could
 tell you. - I am all right
 (although still suffering from
 an obstinate, nasty cold).
 Life is extremely primitive and,
 so far, pretty monotonous.
 The trans-Atlantic trip was
 a nightmare. Yet I am
 happy to be here and looking
 forward to further develop-
 ments. Also, I enjoy talking
 French and seeing familiar
 types and sceneries again.
 The country is charming,
 notwithstanding its present
 poverty. The morale seems
 good - and I mean that
 of our Army as well as
 that of the French,
 also the morale of
 the young faithfully
 affectionately,

KLAYS

5)



AMERICAN RED CROSS

PS) I
My love to Father, E,
Golo, Bruno - Liesl, etc.
Of course, I am mighty
curious to learn all
about Golo's adventures,
and about E's where-
abouts and projects. And
how are you ⁱⁿ Take care
of yourself, in my ab-
sence!

II
Have you written to Robert
Sherwood? It may still be
a useful thing to do,
although there is nothing
definite one could tell
him. (Of course, if you
wrote him already at the
time I was leaving
C., he should not
be bothered again.)

III
I hope you received my cable?

FORM 539 A



AMERICAN RED CROSS

December 19

Dearest Mother :
This is just to say Hello,
and Merry Christmas,
and good bye and
Am revoir. I am writing
from the hospital —
having caught a tiny
bit of the current flu
bacillus but it's nothing
to worry about : my
temperature is already
normal again, and the
major developments to
come will not be affected.
— Before leaving Crowder,
I mailed to you two big,
ugly packages full of papers

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies" and "To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy" The Charter of The American National Red Cross. By Act of Congress January 5, 1905.

FORM 539 A

2)



AMERICAN RED CROSS

and books, which you may
have received since. More-
over, there may be another
package containing some
laundry that wasn't ready
in time, so I had to leave
it behind; and my good
old little typewriter, with
which I entrusted a
reliable little Jew named
Werner Loewenstein; and
perhaps, a smaller parcel
with books sent by Dieter
Kenny (Bubir Koplowitz's
alias Oscar Sudlin, friend);
and, finally, (perhaps) a
package with civilian shoes,
and some other articles,
which I may mail from
here, one of these days.
So that makes a maximum

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies" and "To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy" The Charter of The American National Red Cross. By Act of Congress January 5, 1905.

FORM 539 A

3)



AMERICAN RED CROSS

of six (6) packages altogether
if you please.

The APO address as indi-
cated on the envelop will
be good, until I notify
you of a new one. I
suggest that you use V-
Mail when writing to me.
(And do write in English!)

Did you do something
about dear Miss Goodman,
Auditor of the Bedford?

And what about "The Magic
Mountain" for dear
Lt. Col. E. I. PRATT,
Post Public Relations Officer

I think it will be a
particularly gentle and

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies and "To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord
with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America
and their Army and Navy " The Charter of The American National Red Cross. By Act of Congress January 5, 1905.

FORM 539 A

4)



AMERICAN RED CROSS

generous gesture - just
now, when I no longer
am under the good
Colonel's jurisdiction.

Now, be happy and confident!
Don't worry! Take care of
yourself! Remember me
to Bruno - Lieska, and
to Elsa Herrmann, and
say Hello for me to
Mrs. Bibi and their
promising sons (y'd
drop them a line, if
only you knew their address),
and give my most affectionate
wishes and regards to
Father - Magician, and always
believe in the faithful
devotion of yours,
KLAUS

"To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies" and "To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy" The Charter of The American National Red Cross. By Act of Congress January 5, 1905.

FORM 539 A

Amsterdam, 29 October

Liebe Eltern,

ich habe sehr lang nicht von daheim gehört -- was wohl daran liegt, dass ich meine letzten Briefe an Frau Schwester richtete, die ihrerseits ja bekanntlich zu den "erratic and sporadic correspondents" gehört. (Dies nicht als Tadel -- nur als Feststellung. Ob sie noch im Californischen ist oder schon unterwegs? Ob die lecture tour sich noch vergrößert hat? Und was ist aus dem Collier's-Aufsatz geworden?)

Was mich betrifft, so werde ich nun bald auf kleine Tour gehen -- zunächst drei Vorträge in Kopenhagen (auf englisch, über neue amerikanische Literatur und "intellectual life in postwar German"); dann zwei in Stockholm. Bis zum 9. November bin ich noch hier (habe auch in einer holländischen Provinzstadt noch einen Vortrag zu absolvieren); vom 10. bis zum 19. November c/o English Debating Club 1 Rasmus Raske Vej, Copenhagen (Valby); vom 20. bis zum 27. November, c/o Mrs. Lena I. Gedin, Linnégatan 38, Stockholm.

Danach wird alles etwas ungewiss. WENN ich das Transit-Visum durch Deutschland bekomme, und WENN Betsy bereit ist, sich mit mir zu treffen, würde ich im Wagen langsam durchs dear old country in die Schweiz fahren. Dort soll ich ja auch noch einige Vorträge haben, aber wohl erst im Januar. (Ich habe jetzt, ausser Leresé, noch einen etwas weltläufigeren Agenten vorgespannt.) Ob ich im Dezember noch einmal nach Paris gehe oder in der Schweiz bleibe oder hierher zurückkomme, hängt von mancherlei finanziellen und anderen Fügungen ab.

Was im Besonderen Paris betrifft, so dürfte die Cocteau-Situation nicht ohne Einfluss auf meine Entschlüsse sein. Du hast, Zauberer, doch wohl meinen Brief (aus Paris) bekommen, in dem ich Dich darum bat, dem Cocteau zu schreiben, "Le Machine Infernale" betreffend? Wurde ihm geschrieben? Hat er reagiert?

Etwas Kopfzerbrechen und Ge-issensbisse mache ich mir auch wegen der Goethe Anthology. Der brave Oscar Seidlin, von dem ich unlängst ein langes Schreiben hatte, scheint sich ja ganz ertig zur Verfügung gestellt und auch schon einigen Rat erteilt zu haben. Aber sicher gibt es da doch immer noch eine Menge ungelöster Probleme. Wäre ich in den Staaten, so könnte ich etwas mehr nach dem Rechten sehen -- besonders was die Gedichte anbelangt. Aber der Bubi hat wohl recht, wenn er sagt, dass eigentlich nur "English-born experts" die Qualität der übersetzten Poesien beurteilen können. Immerhin, vielleicht kann ich doch noch etwas behilflich sein, wenn ich -- so etwa Mitte März -- nach U.S. zurückkomme.

Die beiliegende Schnurre der Korrodi'schen habt Ihr vielleicht schon zu Gesicht bekommen. Ich finde sie ganz ungewöhnlich drollig, weil ihm das kuriose Lese-Erlebnis augenscheinlich völlig den Atem

verschlagen hat, so dass er überhaupt nur noch stammeln kann.
Ueber Inhalt und Absicht des Buches bringt er überhaupt kein
Wort hervor. Etwas artikulierter ist die gleichfalls enthusiastische
Rezension, die ich gerade in der "Weltwoche" las. Immerhin sind
diese ersten Reaktionen erfreulich. Augenscheinlich wird der Roman
von den sensiblen Schweizern als ein Ereignis von schauriger Gross-
artigkeit empfunden.

Ich gratuliere zur Veröffentlichung des Buches. (Hier ist es noch
nicht zu haben. Ich werde mir in Stockholm ein Exemplar geben lassen.)

Hier war es weiter ganz nett -- die beiden letzten Wochen auch
mit Walters. Gevatter Friederich ist ja schon wieder drauf und dran
nach New York zu fliegen; aber nach California wird er wohl wieder
nicht kommen.

Gruss für alle Lieben -- Schwesting voran, falls anwesend.

Treuer

K.

24/11/11