

100 ERSTKLASSIG EINGERICHTETE ZIMMER MIT FLIESENDEM
KALT- UND WARMWASSER SOWIE REICHSTELEFON · PRIVATBÄDER
CENTRAL-HEIZUNG · AUFZÜGE · EIGENE WÄSCHEREI · GARAGEN
IM HAUSE · MÄSSIGE PREISE · TELEGR.-ADRESSE: NATIONALHOTEL

HOTEL NATIONAL · FRANKFURT AM MAIN

GEGENÜBER DEM RECHTEN AUSGANG DES HAUPTBAHNHOFS

TELEFON: SAMMELNUMMER 34351

BESITZER: E. PFOH

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, DEN 30 June 1936

Dear mother,

At last a free moment has appeared, and I'll apply it to doing the thing
I want to do and should have done long ago. I left Berlin this morning at 9 o'clock.
and passed through a beautiful section of Germany to get to Frankfurt - through
the Harz and the Taubert, wooded tracts with famous mineral springs. I passed
also through Giessen, Arnold's home town, but I didn't stop anywhere along the
route - arriving in Frankfurt at 6 p.m. I am staying overnight at this hotel, which
is both good and reasonable, and at noon tomorrow I shall leave for Heidelberg
arriving there at 1:30; I'll stop there until 5 o'clock, and then continue
on to Freiburg, arriving there at 8 the same evening. Perhaps I may see someone
at Heidelberg from Stanford or Columbia, for the 550th anniversary celebrations are
going on now. Anyway, I think most of the travelling is over now, at least the travelling
in Germany.

Now for Berlin, and what kept me so busy that I couldn't find a moment
to write my good mother. I arrived on Saturday 20 June at 8 p.m., and was
met at the station by Heinz, whom I had no difficulty recognizing. It was
nice of him to come to meet me, as Berlin is a pretty big place, and his presence

was quite helpful. We left the bags at the station, went to find the pension which was recommended to me, found it, returned for the bags, and so found ourselves, or myself, settled. The pension was in a nice section of Berlin, in easy reach of the main shopping section, etc. Well, the next day a friend of mine from Columbia, Mr. von Helms, arrived at the same pension, and you can imagine the rest. Either with him or Heinz I was out every moment except for sleeping. Heinz is a very nice chap indeed, a good worker and a good-natured companion. I went one night to his home and met his brother and mother and then presented the ties, which apparently were finer than anything they had ever seen; they even admired the lining. Well, back to Berlin: von Helms and I went to the municipal tourist office to see what was going on, and arranged to go on a bus trip to see an Arbeitsdienstlager, that is, a Labor Service Camp. Every German boy 18 yrs of age has now to serve 6 months in the Labor Service, regardless of his rank in life. They are fed and clothed and get 6 cents a day spending money. All the boys in this camp seemed to enjoy being in the open, swinging a pick or cutting trees. It's something like the CCC, except that the CCC takes only bums. Another day we went to a suburb called Wunsdorf to see a display of tanks of the new army and they were pretty good, let me tell you. The French are just about scared out of their wits by the new Germany. All Germans 21 years of age have to serve one year in the army, and you can see that the army is very well treated - excellent uniforms, wonderful new barracks, etc. That leads to another point - there is more construction going on in Germany than in the U.S. Germany really appears to be prosperous - building a new subway in Berlin, new buildings, no begging on the streets, no bums and tramps as in U.S. And the Jews aren't hanging from the lamp-posts, either. It is quite true that Germans are gradually

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taking over the business formerly controlled by Jews, but there is no bodily persecution.

Hitler has really changed human nature: In Germany, as elsewhere, everyone was formerly scrambling ^{©2017} for himself, but now it is "Gemeinnutz vor Eigenutz" - "The Community before Self." ^{California State University Fresno} That's why all these 18 yr. old boys are willing to work hard for 6 months for only 6 cents a day - because they work they are doing is benefiting all of Germany.

Honestly, the people's faces shine when they think that now Hitler has made things secure - no political unrest, no fear of revolution, ^{rights reserved} opportunity to save and know that your savings won't disappear, opportunity to get married and have children without fear of losing your job. Unemployment is rapidly disappearing, and the whole morale of Germany (the most important thing) has changed from one of despondency and misery to one of happiness and confidence. Everyone seems much happier than the average American, even though he earns less. The German can enjoy himself on a few pennies, while the American must squander his money. Well, enough of a sermon. Von Helms was here before Hitler, and now he says that he can really feel the change - it is a new Germany indeed.

We spent one whole day at Potsdam, the vacation spot of the Prussian kings, right down to Wilhelm II. Magnificent palaces, and more beautiful gardens than I have ever seen. The weather has been perfect - pretty warm, but clear and breezy.

Ponti didn't forward any mail to Berlin, so I haven't had any news of my good mother since leaving Copenhagen. By now you are getting ready for the trip to Canada unless the plans have been changed. I know you will have a fine time and come back invigorated and refreshed. And now I must say that I have been so busy that I've hardly had time to think of being homesick. So far I've been fortunate in having some one congenial with me most of the time - Nögg in Copenhagen, and Heing and von Helms in Berlin. The train trip from Denmark to Hamburg was quite interesting, as it is a 2 hour trip from Jeller in d. to Wandsb. in G. The train is shunted onto the ferry, and the customs inspection takes place there. The J. customs officials didn't even bother to open my bags, but of course I had to list all the money I was taking in, as the financial control is very strict: they are afraid that the Jews will try to smuggle funds out of Germany.

This again isn't much of a letter, but when I get settled at Freiburg I know I shall do better. It's now 11 p.m., and I think I'll go to bed, and recollect some of the interesting things I want to tell you about a multitude of things.

With all my very best love and constant thoughts and Heil Hitler!

Hans M.M.