

HOTEL NETTO

TELEFONE 15

SINTRA
PORTUGALFriday June 20¹ '41

Dear People,

It appears we are
 lived up. Yesterday we were called in to Lis-
 boa along with two others. One man was
 sent back into France, but to Marseilles; the
 other boy is staying in Lisboa ~~also~~ as we
 are. The nicest part is that the Counsel,
 a Mr. Wiley, who was in Paris, has told us
 that he called to Washington to ask if it
 was all right to take us on a temporary
 basis. If you are assigned temporarily,
 you get six dollars per person per day in
 addition to your salary (i.e. \$12 for us).

Some lucky ones in Vichy have been getting
 that for a year! As life in Portugal is very
 expensive we are much relieved by the Coun-
 sel's kind act.

4-6 p1 We are very glad to stay here. As I said in my first letter, it is a delightful country and the people are amiable. If they only spoke Spanish! Their language is the thorn on the rose as far as I'm concerned. But we shall take it up as soon as we're settled. Mr. Wiley spoke about a small furnished apartment, previously tenanted by some Panamanian waymen, which would suit me better than a "Pensião", as they say here. Also it would be cheaper & imagining, although I should have to have a maid all the time, since I don't speak this language. (There was a long pause to take care of the shipment of a trunk to Lisboa)

What a relief it is to know we have a sure job again-still! We had pictured ourselves joining the unemployed or the army, and although the idea of seeing you and the U.S. was very tempting indeed, the other one wasn't. The rest of the 50-odd people here

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are still suspended in mid air,²
 as it were, including our
 friends the Allans, who joined the F. Service
 the same day Jones did. We were lucky;
 especially as I think we are going to get
 along well with the men down at the
 consulate. Jones went in to work this
 morning, thus ending a short but plea-
 sant vacation.

We have become brown as injuns,
 and are getting Horribly Fat on this
 over-abundant Portuguese food. We start
 off our meals with thick soup or an ome-
 lette, go on to a generous portion of
 delicious fish with potatoes, then swing
 into meat with two vegetables, move on
 to a salad, dive into a pudding, and
 come up to the surface on a sea of assorted
 fruit. Quelle vie! In Paris towards the
 end you were allowed only 3 meager courses,

4-6p2

HOTEL METTO
1510
SOUTH
PORTLAND

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text follows, appearing to be a letter or document with several paragraphs.]

consisting of soup or one hour of course, two ³
 vegetables or fish & 1 veget-
 able or (at lunch time only
 on the four meat days) 90
 grammes of meat. If you took meat or
 poultry you could not have your 20 grammes
 of cheese to which you had the right 2
 times a week (if there was any). Fruit
 was of course the only ~~dessert~~, since pastry
 was illegal and the ingredients of puddings,
 etc. were non-existent. But in spite of
 the sound of it you could get very used to
 that amount of food and get along well on
 it, although for growing children and hard
 manual workers it was insufficient. The people
 eat large quantities of bread normally, so the
 ration of 275 grammes per day was not
 enough for them. However, as we noticed,
 the ration in Spain is only 80 gr. per day.
 The well-to-do never suffered, because they
 bought butter, meat etc. on the marché noir.

4-6 p3 What a different world here! You can
buy anything you want with money!)
It seems like paradise. No tickets. No
special days. No "queues". For the last two
months you could only get cigarettes in
minutes a day by standing in line.
We no longer like American cigarettes, we
always smoke dark tobacco, which is
much cheaper in any case.

We have been having a lovely
time climbing mountains, swimming,
taking sun baths, going to a bull fight,
holding "bull sessions". Now we can
hardly wait to hear from you. I hope
all of you are going to start right in
writing thousands of letters to make up
for lost time!

Much love,
Me