

AMERICAN CONSULATE  
Milan, Italy  
September 15, 1940

Dear Dad:

As said in my recent letter to Janie, your letter of August 29th arrived here September 8th; this is certainly good enough time, and we have nothing to complain about. It is, however, sad to think that when I was in Stuttgart we used to be able to get mail by the usual methods in about the same amount of time – 10 days. I suppose we cannot expect too much, and it may some time before things get back to normal again.

Many thanks for getting those pictures paid for. It annoys me to keep getting those bills every month; now I don't mind it so much, since the bill is settled. I am glad to hear that the grapes are coming along nicely. They have, as you know, very good grapes in this country, and they urge people to eat them as an aid to health. The ones the maid has been getting for me are white grapes, very sweet and juicy. I have not seen any, however, to compare with our Concord.

I want to confirm what I wrote to Janie recently; namely, that I shall be more than pleased to assist financially in her extra schooling. It is quite natural that she should have to go at least one more year in school. You must realize that in these days, things are so specialized that going to college doesn't mean any more now, as far as getting work is concerned, than high school did twenty years ago. A few years ago I saw it estimated that about one third of all college graduates take graduate work afterwards. Certainly studying education is no assurance of a job. In fact, it is my impression that the field of secondary school teaching is badly overcrowded, the fact that two of Janie's friends got jobs to the contrary notwithstanding. Surely, if the salaries paid at Newark High are any criterion, there is no great demand for teachers. I am sure that Sarah would agree with me, on this point. Anyway, I hope the little girl makes a success of her undertaking; everything we do now is a risk: think of the odds against any one person's passing: the Foreign Service examinations, for example. And God knows what I would have done if I hadn't passed them. I told Janie it would be up to her to work hard and justify the confidence we are putting in her. I hope that you will encourage her, as I think part of her trouble is lack of self-confidence. Who could feel self-confident faced with the problem of getting a job now, anyway? I am expecting that either you or Janie will send me some sort of a financial program for the coming year to show just how much she will need and how she proposes to meet the expense. I am uncertain yet whether it would be wise to send a check by air mail or not, especially since you mention that the last letter had been opened. As Janie probably told you, the use of the diplomatic pouch has been considerably restricted recently; however, I shall probably be able to use it.

How is dear Sarah doing these days? I am so sorry that she has apparently given up writing, as her letters were an interesting supplement to yours. I am glad to hear that Melody is going to be entered in the High School as a Junior this year, and I am most interested to know how she likes it. I sigh with relief whenever I think that she left the Rhinlands only two days before the bombing raids started; even though she came through safely, it certainly would have been a load on Sarah's mind.

It makes me feel very homesick to remember that only one year ago I was in Washington, dying with the heat but having a wonderful time. Of course , it got progressively better all the time, and I have missed the friendships and social contacts very much since arriving here. There is practically nothing to do here. Of course, I enjoy reading very much, but one gets a little tired of that after a while. The movies are not very good, and how I would enjoy hearing one in English. Perhaps next Spring I will be able to get a short vacation and up to Switzerland. In the larger cities they have American movies in the original language. Unfortunately, all the friends I used to have there have been transferred elsewhere, so I would have no one to visit. There doesn't seem to be much chance of getting a vacation before then.

Things have been very quiet at night recently. Once again the British have promised the Swiss not to fly over Switzerland, and this time it looks as if they meant it – for the present, at least. This makes it rather hard to get to Milan, as it is pretty well screened by Switzerland. Genoa and Turin are more or less exposed to fliers coming from France, but they would have so far to go to get to Milan, that the defense would be all ready for them when they arrived. No one knows, however, how long this quiet spell will last. I imagine it must be rather nerve-wracking to be in London or Berlin right now – especially the former.

I have some slight hopes of being able to go up to Geneva next week end. Phil Hubbard wants to go up there to see about buying a car. He has heard that there is a Ford V8 for sale for the payment of the garage bill, which is only \$25 or \$30. So he wants to look into it. I am afraid, however, that we will not both be able to get away at the same time.

There doesn't seem to be much else to write about, and it is getting late, so I will close by sending all my love.

As ever,

THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Milan, Italy

BY POUCH

Mr. L. M. Krieg  
197 Hudson Ave.  
Newark, Ohio



WASHINGTON D. C. P. O.  
This article was originally  
mailed to country indexes  
by postage



*Air mail*

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