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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
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AMERICAN CONSULATE
Stuttgart, Germany
August 6, 1939

Dear Daddy:-

It certainly is a long time since I have written you a real letter, but I hope the cards from England and the letter Janie wrote while she was here were sufficient to let you know that I had not fallen through. Right at the moment I ~~was~~ ^{am} suffering from one of the greatest annoyances known to man - a summer cold. It started just a week ago, and I think it was due to too much celebrating and staying up too late while Janie was here. I hope that this time next week it will be gone.

I believe I can really say that Janie had a wonderful time while she was here. All of my colleagues outdid themselves to entertain her; we had something doing almost every evening, and enjoyed it all very much. The most elaborate party was given by the Tellers, who invited nearly everybody in the whole Consulate to a buffet supper. Mrs. Teller is unexcelled as a hostess, and the whole thing was done up in considerable style. We had cocktails, of course, to start with, and then trays and trays of delicious hors d'oeuvres. After that came half of a beautifully roasted chicken for each person, with scalloped potatoes and trimmings. They also had home-made ice cream - good and rich, like we like it. One can scarcely realize how difficult it is to assemble enough food here for such a feast, even when one has all kinds of canned goods to draw upon. For instance, Mrs. Teller had to shop for days to find enough chickens with sufficient meat on them to be worth eating.

The L'Heureux's were also very nice to us. They had us in for dinner when we first arrived, and asked Janie to tea twice. We also went there several times informally, just to talk. A week ago today, when I was just catching my cold, John Cope and his wife drove us down to Hechingen, a few miles south of here to see Schloss Zollern. Hechingen is located in the tiny province of Hohenzollern, which is the original home of the family who later became the Kaisers of Germany as well as the family of the present reigning house of Rumania. Near Hechingen there is an enormous hill, standing out abruptly from the plain below. On its summit stands the castle, the present being a 19th century restoration of the medieval structure which was destroyed during 16th and again during the 17th or 18th centuries. The castle is not, therefore, of great historical interest, but its location is so beautiful, and the view that one gets from its ramparts is so marvelous, that the trip there was well worth while.

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After visiting the castle, we had a picnic lunch outdoors, also in very beautiful surroundings. If I had not had this cold before, I would think that I had caught it then, but that was not the case. I had a terrible sore throat the whole day, and the next day the cold was in full swing.

Janie managed to get ready to leave without any great difficulty. Before going she bought a nice little camera, which was recommended by one of the boys in the Consulate who knows more about them than I do, and was very well pleased with it. I think she got an excellent buy. We were unable to buy a camera for George Baker because she didn't have enough money. Bought at the rate I have to pay for marks, it would be just as expensive as in this country; it would hardly be worth while to bother with it. If I knew more about cameras, I might take a chance on one, but I am not going to have any marks extra either, so I would have to cash another check. Due to the export subsidies, German cameras can be bought almost as cheaply abroad as they can in Germany; only if you know the subject very well can you be sure you are getting your money's worth.

Janie leave here the evening of August 2nd for Trieste, where, as you know, she was to take the boat. Although she had a couple of awkward changes to make, she wrote to me that she arrived safely after a good trip, and in plenty of time to make the boat. In fact, the steamer hadn't arrived yet when she got in. I can't imagine, however, why Klopp routed her through Trieste instead of direct to Naples. She would have had two or three extra days here then, and could have got better railroad service. She will be getting in only a few days after you receive this.

My own plans for returning are proceeding apace. I am to arrive in N.Y. August 31, and will come home as soon as possible. Naturally, I don't know what time the boat will arrive so I can't say what train I will be on. However, you can count on my getting in some time on September 1, unless the ship gets in very late at night; I will wire you on arrival. I already have received my S.S. ticket, so that is all set. I will not be able to have a cabin alone this time, but will share one with Vice Consul Norden from Berlin, who is also going back for the school. At least two other colleagues will be on board - one from Hamburg and one from Vienna. By a coincidence, three of the four are Dartmouth men. It pains me to think that I will have so little time at home at first; only from the first till the evening of the 4th, as I must be in Washington the morning of the fifth. There doesn't seem to be much use in writing more; writing is so painful for me, and I can tell you more in ten minutes face to face than I could in two pages of letter. Please give my love to all the family, especially Aunt Vonie and Ninnie. Thank Betty for the lovely handkerchiefs she sent with Janie; they arrived just in time for my cold, although they are really too pretty to use.

With love and best wishes,



