



AMERICAN RED CROSS

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Florence, Switzerland:

Salzburg, Austria
Monday, 20 August 45.

My only regret is that I am drinking up all this scenery, atmosphere, and musical moments without you at my side. I know were it possible for you to share yesterday and to-day with me, it would have been one of the highlights of our life. It has been my lot to have many pleasant and unpleasant moments in Europe, but I can truthfully admit that my visit to Salzburg has been one of the most pleasant since I came into the army. This city is so steeped in culture, tradition, scenery and landmarks, not to overlook history that I meander about in awe. added to this are the houses of music and entertainment I thrilled to yesterday, and the anticipation of enjoying to night's performance.

as I outlined in last night's letter I attended a performance of the Vienna Choir Boys. It was the only one they gave during this festival, and was attended by a packed theatre. Unfortunately the theatres are not too large, but the interior is more exquisite than any I have seen anywhere. The seats were more uncomfortable than most theatres back home, though. To add to the excitement and glamor of the evening there was a motley group of army officers in attendance. Among others General Clark of the US Army, General Kanier of the Russian army, the British General McCree, each with the generals of their staff. Despite my being in the army

almost 21 months it was my first sight of
the generals who led us to victory. However I'm
sure they enjoyed themselves no more than I did,
and perhaps some of them even wished to lend their
sweetheart's hand as the cheer-leads elegantly sang
their songs.

Enclosed herewith is the program of the
evening and the stub of my ticket. Please save
both for me. I'll not try to describe the program
in detail, but the 1-act opera was a thriller.
Strangely enough the song selections included in
the program supplied some of the best musical
moments of the evening. They rendered the "Blue
Danube Waltz", and it was no effort at all to
imagine myself toying to waltz with my only
sweetheart and wife. Another course number was
"Gassy Bonnie lies over the Ocean" sung in English,
but the climatic and concluding number was
"Yankee Doodle Dandy" sung in German. For over
two hours my heart was filled with thoughts of
you framed in the melodic waves of youth. It
was a happy feeling, darling, and I left the
theatre walking on my tip-toes. The boys, or
in number, sang in age from about 8 to 16 years.
They are well trained, have very fine voices,
and are excellent musicians. They will some
day, no doubt, visit New York, and then you too
will share this lovely evening with me, hand
in hand.

Upon my return to Seelbachen following
the revival I found your air mail letter dated
Aug. 8th and 9th awaiting me, also one from
uncle Harry and a letter from Frank in Malenia.
Jim's enclosed snipe were the best yet, and the



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Littleascal looks older than he really is. He seems to be growing taller, though not heavier, and still has that gleam in his eyes. It was easy to read your optimism between the lines, and happy am I that our fondest hopes have been finally substantiated. Peace, soon, and the resumption on a bigger and scale of our life of happiness, joy and love. — If only the tempo would pick up more rapidly for the next 3 or 4 months. — Patience, even Patience!

One of the more pleasing lines in your letter was the announcement that many of my recent and old letters are reaching you. I am particularly happy that you find so much joy in my written efforts, because I take a keen delight in writing you. Also pleased that these stamps in writing you, also pleased that these stamps have begun to reach you in good order. I described in yesterday's letter that many of them are well packed right here in Linz and Salzburg, and should be worth more in the States. However I'll take care of that little detail after I return. Mark wrote me the other day requesting me to obtain some Austrian stamps for him, which I am at present doing. If you receive a check from him you'll know what it represents. Have done nothing with the sheets you sent me, but will advise. I'm glad you are purchasing sheets of these Commemorative for us, and I'm a wee bit regretful for having liquidated so many sheets 3 or 4 years ago. However, we still have a few char'a ones left.

I am glad you get some pleasure out

of reading Frank's letters, as well as his son's. Your advice that it is now possible to send packages to Belgium was most pleasing. Frank has 1 of these Transatlantic Paper Coverings for me, which I want to distribute to some good judge. However, even though they cost him money I'm sure he wouldn't accept any from me. In appreciation, and token payment for these, will you please try to send him as soon as possible a package of foodstuffs and delicacies such as: Cocoa, chocolate pudding, salmon, tuna fish, rice, cookies, smoked cheese, jam, and anything edible I haven't mentioned. Upon your return home please forward a package of wearable clothes for his wife & get, such as sweaters, dresses, mufflers, gloves, and such. If I have any old sweaters or mufflers at home, which I have and Jr can use please include them. It will be a cold winter, and I'm sure they will have difficulty to obtain these necessities. I would also appreciate your sending them a Xmas package containing a large fruit cake, nuts, candy, and a tin of sliced bacon. I know I'm giving you some camp work, but when I get back I'll reimburse you of all these minor details. Thanks so much. If you have or can acquire wearable clothing for children I know they can be put to excellent use.

Thanks so much for your prompt attention to my requests of stamps and package. I have already received the stamps, as you know, and will advise when the bundle reaches me. All these items come in handy sooner or later, and I'll tell you all about them when I am once again conversing with you in my room, as I expect "I love you" into your ears.

I have been in Salzburg since 11 this morning, and it is now 4 PM. The sun was



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in all its glory when I left Sepechen, but has been hiding behind clouds ever since I reached here. However, undaunted, I took a roll of film, inscribed it into my K-nation camera, and snuffed pictures. Will let you know in 10 days what the results are like.

Have had no word from Bob since his letter of August 2nd reached me. I'm hopeful that he was still stationed in the States when the Nipsa surrendered. If so, his charmed life as you term it so aptly, may continue to find a way out for him. I hope so. Capt. Howard received notice that he was to be discharged, and I believe will leave for the States in ten days or two weeks. Thank goodness! If Capt. May will permit me I'm going to try to file my application under the "38 year" rule as soon as possible. The worst they can do is reject it until I reach my 38th birthday. However the army is full of strange happenings, events and quirk. I'll be sure to advise if anything develops as the result of this maneuver.

I feel great, hopeful, and enthusiastic about the prospects of this being our year. Kiss Jim for me, keep smiling, and give my best to everyone. I'll kiss you in mind with all my love and adoration, as ever,

George



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