

Relief Section 143 / I.V.S.P. / B.R.C.C.
HQ British Troops Berlin
B.A.O.R. 2

April 10th. 1948

Dear Derek,

As Basil is coming home tomorrow I will write a letter to send with him. I don't believe I have heard from you since my last letter of March 24th, but our post has been most erratic, and at times quite non-existent, so there is always a chance that things have gone as tray - and of course Easter has come in between too.

We have been figuring in the papers quite considerably lately, by "we" I naturally mean Berlin, life in Berlin has naturally become more complicated by the situation, but we get very angry when we read the propaganda in the different papers, it certainly does nothing to help the situation, they are always so eager to pounce on the slightest thing and make a story of it, and it naturally doesn't help the chances of patching things up. Basil will tell you about his adventures on the famous train, not having heard the wireless that day, and our newspapers always come late, I was most surprised when he and Eric Clever walked into Kühler Weg at 3.30 a.m. and asked if they could have a bed! I thought I was dreaming.

We have completely run out of IVSP notepaper large size, and we haven't very much of the small size either, I only use it when it is really necessary, but I had a lot of invitations for the camp to write and that used it all.

Reg, Peggy and Johs got back safely from their trip and their 72 hours leave, luckily before they left the CCG had insisted on them having a very special movement order in Russian, which had meant that Peggy and I spent half the morning chasing from office to office of the CCG net-work to get it, but it is a good thing we did, because while they were away the "crisis" occurred, and it made their return journey easier than it would otherwise have been.

A visit that I made the other day to the "Visas to Britain" office in Berlin has changed (or rather may change) all our plans for the future (Rudi's and mine). I discovered that it might be possible to get permission for Rudi to come to England for us to get married there, and that it also might be possible to get permission for him to stay in England, this last is a possibility that is all tied up in red tape, and we wouldn't believe it until we see it confirmed in black and white, and it all rests with that unknown quantity to Home Office. But we are making the application immediately, and if we can only come to England to get married on a two months permit for Rudi, then we think we will accept that, there is always a thin chance that we could pull some strings once we are there, and if we don't succeed at least we can have our "Honeymoon" in England! I enclose copies of my correspondence on the subject so that you are up to date with my complicated arrangements! any advise as to how you think I should go about it would be very welcome. It is very frustrating whom ones private life is tangled up with red tape, but we have to be patient and hope for the best.

The team are all very well and cheerful; this is a mixture of private and official news, but the work of the team goes on as usual.

The camp is going very well, Douglas will have told you about the very unfortunate incident, we are all so very sorry about it, but we really have no reason to believe that it was a member of the camp, and the spirit of the camp is very good, and the work is going ahead very well. We succeeded in getting 100 lbs of flour from C.R.A.L.O.G. and a further supply of oatmeal and cereal from the food committee of the three teams, and I think that they should have enough to last till the end of the camp now. On Easter Monday Basil was here and we all went for an outing with the camp, taking our lunch with us. The weather was lovely and amongst other things we went to visit the scene of last year's camp in Neu Kladow. It was most encouraging to see the results of our labours, that the hospital were keeping the garden in order and counting to cultivate what we had dug for them last year.

Basil will be able to give you any further news in Person, all the best wishes from the team.

Yours sincerely Betty