

USA Brief mit interessantem Inhalt

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Folgenden USA Brief habe ich neulich erhalten:



Der Brief wurde am 20. Juni 1941 ins GG gesandt und erhielt dort den Siegesstempel bei Ankunft. Das hatte mir doch gefallen, da ich bisher nur wenige Auslandsbriefe mit V-Stempel kenne.

Als ich den Brief erhielt, war der Inhalt jedoch das Interessanteste. Der 2seitige Brief enthält Informationen über die Zeit, Preisvergleiche etc. sowie Informationen über die Zensurstelle. Schade, dass nicht noch mehr Briefe aus diesem Schriftverkehr vorliegen.

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1 + 2 Karten + 4 Dts. 36/2/5
✓ ✓ ✓
Have enclosed two Conservatory programs. Please let me know if you receive them. Also enclosing a picture postal card of our fine inland port and an international reply card, which is already stamped.

June 17th, 1941

Dear Gustav,

I was happy to receive your letter dated May 1st. It came yesterday. I sent that letter after registering it, and also paid a fee to have a card returned to me. I have not had the card with your signature in it. With your letter came a small paper upon which was the following:

" Im Interesse de Sache ist es dringend erwünscht, dab Name und Adresse des Briefempfangers und Absenders nicht nur auf den Umschlag, sondern auch auf eine jede Briefeinlage gesetzt werden.
Die Auslandsbriefprüfstelle . "

I can't understand this but shall ask some one that knows. I'm sorry I don't read German, and my French and Italian have slipped away from me. I played a part in the last school play and was known as Captain Heinrich Kleinschmidt. I had a few German words to pronounce and all of the English had to be spoken with a German accent. It was great sport. My first line was rather funny. I said " Ach! meine kleine Carlotta. Wie gehts, kindt, wie gehts?" Many in the audience thought I said " wie gehts, ~~XX~~ kid, wie gehts?" That word "kid" doesn't mean a young goat, but is a slang word in English for a small child. Some times you hear it used in a joking manner with older girls; even up to thirty years of age. But you must know to whom you are speaking or the person might think you were insulting.

It takes so long for my letters to get to you and for yours to reach me that I often forget what I have written to you. I often think that I should make a carbon copy of the letter, but when I write the next time, I forget it.

I graduated from the College of the Pacific last Sunday evening. There were about one hundred and twenty-five in the graduating class, and the exercises were held outside in the stadium where the athletic contests are played. I shall not attend school this summer but shall read as much as possible and be prepared to take graduate courses next fall. I will also go to our high school and teach for two hours of the school day. They call this "practice teaching" and I must do it before I can apply for a job teaching in any school.

I am sorry that one of the stamps was torn away and written in German " came without stamp" ! That is not so ! I don't remember just what stamps I used, but I put stamps amounting to 25 cents on that letter. It was 15 cents for registry, 5 cents for postage and 5 cents for a card with your signature telling me that you had received it. I used several 3 cent stamps but can't remember which ones. So you can count up the value on each stamp and see if there is 25 cents value on it. Otherwise someone has taken the stamps from the letter. That used to happen in this country. Someone in the postal department would steam off the stamps. But now there is a prison sentence for anyone caught doing that.

I have been very sorry that I could not help your Russian friends. Even since I wrote to you last, I have inquired at several places but all I know is that if I send money enough for train and ship fare to

someone in russia, and did get a person over here, then I must be responsible for that person and give them food, clothing and shelter. The peculiar thing about that procedure is in most cases the money is never sent to the right person and I would be losing my money and have no way of getting it back.

I am glad you understand, for I would be so glad to help you or your friends. Of course the British censors remove any money going to your country and limit the amount of packages that can be sent. They don't limit them. They simply destroy or use ~~xxxx~~ whatever is in them themselves. The poor devils !

Yes, conditions in this country are far from what they have been. I guess you are acquainted with our money system, but our money is based on the dollar. That amount to 100 cents. It is difficult to say what the average workingman earns. I guess the average is about one hundred and ten dollars each month. That might seem like a lot of money, but it costs about thirty-five or forty dollars a month to rent a house, and it costs about fifty dollars a month for a family of three or four to eat. Gasoline costs about 21 cents per gallon and most American cars travel about 16 to 20 miles per gallon. Average American cars cost about \$900.00 for a sedan (four passenger) when new. Milk is now 14 cents per quart. Bread is 10 cents for a pound loaf. Vegetables are cheap. Cucumbers 1 cent each. Squash 1 cent per pound. Tomatoes 5 cents per pound. But prices on many things have gone up. Meat is much higher and bread will go up. Milk was 12 cents a quart.

It is difficult for me to write to you. I don't wish to say anything the censors might think you had told me. But we have so many people who have escaped from Europe; Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland and other countries. They know what is happening and have pictures to prove. So I have a good idea of what and how things are. It makes me so mad to think that they should be that way. There is no excuse for things now. But we will have to live and live our best; doing what we can for those who heed our help and in so doing feel that life is worth while, in spite of the mud, rain, and the dust storms and hot weather here in my town. Terrific winds often come up and carry the dust through the air for many miles. We close all the doors and windows but it still comes in the house. Last week we had two days that the temperature was 100 degrees Fahrenheit. That is very warm.

But my dear friend, I think of you often and pray that you may have the courage to keep high ideas and work toward them. Your time will come to do good and see good done everywhere.

I appreciate your efforts in writing English. I know it must be difficult for you but you are doing nobly without any assistance. The typing is easy to read and I am grateful for your kind letters. Sometime you might write a letter to me in German. I could have some of the German students translate it for me. We have a refugee from Austria here at our college. The school is giving him free education and he corresponds with friends in Moravia and other German provinces. He is also a stamp collector. Would you send a few of the common stamps that you have, that are used for postal service within your own town, to give to him? I treasure every letter that you send and don't care to give any away. I thought you might have some that are common. We only use two cent stamps in our city for mail. Best wishes again. Now that I have more time, I'll try to write to you oftener. *your friend, Bill*