

Sunday July 10, 1949

Dear Lenore,

This afternoon we left Vienna by motor car and travelling down the Danube Valley arrived about an hour ago at this small Austrian town of Linz. It became important during the war because Göring built here under the mountains a steel plant employing 47,000 people. We are now sheltered in the house over this vast underground factory which was occupied by the German Gauleiter,

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Butter fighting took place
in the area before it was
knocked out. We have an
occupation force here now of
about 3000 men and a 150
bed hospital. It is a some
what isolated post. I shall
not speak more of it.

I do want to tell you
about Vienna. We left Munich
on Thursday night on the one
American train allowed to
cross the Russian zone each
day, a distance of about 200
miles - an overnight trip.
The train - "the Mozart" famous
even before the war is now

what is known as a "sealed train" i.e. one can not get off after boarding. It is guarded by American troops. Vienna, like Berlin, is in Russian territory. Only the city is under four power control. The one real fear of the Americans in Vienna is that they will be blockaded. It would be impossible for them to get out and the Army feels that an air lift here would be impossible.

We arrived at about 6:30 AM

and were met by Col. Sailor
 C.O. of the 110th Station Hospital.
 After breakfast we made rounds,
 watched the chief surgeon operate,
 had lunch, gave a talk followed
 by a two hour seminar and
 then the Col. announced that
 tickets were available for
 the opera to be given that
 night. We skipped dinner
 in order to get into town
 by 6:30 PM.

The opera, *The Beggar Student*
 was delightful. It cast
 of about 200 on a beauti-
 ful revolving stage with

Viennese music such as
 on the Viennese can play
 in Vienna. The four of us,
 Reich, Middleton, Fovel and I,
 enjoyed it a great deal. I, of
 course did not understand
 all of the German, but the
 story developed in such a
 manner that the sense was
 easily followed. Being a
 light opera, the music was
 the thing. Incidentally, we
 sat in the Emperor's Box.
 It now is assigned to the American
 General commanding the area

during the rotation of supreme command, each month it changes. When the Russians are in charge, the box belongs to the Russian General, then in turn the English and French. No Austrian is allowed to set in it.

There is this difference between Germany and Austria. Germany is an occupied country, the occupying forces govern their areas. Austria is a liberated country - they run it them-

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selves. In truth there is very little difference. Neither has any money, American money is re building each and doing every thing possible to show the natives that our way of life is the best way. Here in Austria I believe we have been successful.

Vienna, while it has many buildings in ruins was not devastated like the German cities. It is still a great capital in spite of the fact that

it is the capital of a
 lost empire hence must
 surely die. It is a city
 of lost dreams and music.
 Every little cafe has music.
 I have not had a meal out-
 side of the hospital where
 there was not music - all
 kinds - from Bethoven to
 very good American singing.
 The one defect in the future
 is the fact that we are
 always with Colonels or
 Generals who of course do

not indulge in the pleasures of the S. I's and who at all times are playing a game of bluff with the Russians and conduct themselves in an absolutely impeccable manner. We, as representatives of the surgeon general, do likewise. Even this however has not spoiled the enjoyment of the vast historical panorama stretched out on all sides. The great and beautiful palace

of the Hapsburgs palace
 (Burg) in the city and
 the simply marvellous
 summer place called
 Schönbrunn. Here Marie
 Theresa raised her 16
 children and gave orders
 to the rest of the world,
 From here little Marie
 Antoinette went to become
 Queen of France and
 her sister to become Queen
 of Holland, Here Napoleon

lived from ^{11.} 1804-1809
and married the daughter
of the Emperor of Austria.
Here Franz Joseph was
born, reigned longer than
any monarch in history
and finally died to join
137 kings of the Hapsburg
line in a common resting
place.

Here Mozart, Hayden
Shubert and Beethoven left
their immortal heritage that
still lives so brightly in

the heart of the people.
 These are not the war like
 Heren folk of north germany.
 They as in the past sip their
 small cups of Turkish
 coffee at the numerous out-
 of door cafes. On weekends
 they hike by the thousands
 to the nearby Vienna
 woods,

This city is the melting
 pot of the East and West.
 The Turkish influence
 is still seen in its

church towers and archi-
 tecture, its people are more
 cosmopolitan than those
 seen in the German cities.
 They are poor, but so was
 Schubert - so was Beethoven
 who was buried in potter's
 field before his genius became
 appreciated. Vienna is still
 a fascinating place.

I had the pleasure of
 making rounds at the world
 famous Allgemeines Kranken-
 heit (3000 bed gen. hospital)

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It is shabby and poor
treatment at least 15-20
years behind ours, yet to
watch Herr Geheimrat Prof.
Dr. Herman Linsterner operate
was a great privilege. He
has done over 8000 gastric
resections. No one else in the
world can even approach
this.

Tomorrow night I
go to Salzburg, up in
the Austrian Alps.
I hope that all goes well.
I love you all so much. Charlie