

T. S. S. Mear, Hellen
August 13

At Sea

Near Folke,

We had breakfast
at 7 O'clock this morn-
ing. Tommie smiled
at the waiter and
(he) fed him his buck-
fast. I went out and
bought a couple of
plastic bikes and another
harness. After finishing
parking, paying bills,
regging the boys into
their harness and
reins, we started
via Tapi to Hoboken.

Everything went
smoothly and we
landed in our cabins
about four hours before
the ship sailed. Max
had a lot of running around.

to do and was it hot! ⁽²⁾
He finally corralled all our
baggage and we settled
ourselves in our stateroom.

This stateroom is about the
size of Max's bedroom in
Hong. It has four bunks,
two on the side with
the porthole and two on
the opposite side. A nice
rug is on the floor between.
There are two wash bowls
with running hot and cold
water between the head
of the bunks. At the foot
of each set of bunks are two
closets and four drawers.

There is a chest with five
drawers and desk top
between the left side & door.

There are two good mirrors in
the room. An electric bed light
over each bunk, an overhead
light and a light over each
wash
basin.

Before we ^③ got going
Tommy went to sleep so
I didn't see much of New York's
sky line. He awoke in time for
me to catch a glimpse of the
Statue of Liberty.

Then we all had dinner.
We have a large round table
with Mr. & Mrs. Winton and
their year old son, David.
The food is delicious.
At first Tommy & Kenneth
didn't like the canned milk
now they drink their usual
quart a day apiece.

We had three plates
piled in front of us and
more silver displayed
around us than I've been
able to know how to use
yet. The first course was
some kind of rice and tomatoe
molded. Awfully good. Then
we had roast pork & mixed
salad. Then cheese two kinds
and peaches.

After lunch ^(F) we started
to explore the deck and
found a special delivery
package addressed to us.
It was from Majorie Cook
and contained, gum, ~~Candies~~
peanuts and big packages
of cookies. Lots of fun!

Dinner was at 7.30. What
food and all you want of all
of it!

Menu
soup first plate
fried fish (swordfish) second plate
meat & vegetables third plate
layer cake (very fancy & delicious) fourth plate
fruit (grapes) fifth plate
Dessert (right by the table)

After dinner we were all
ready for bed & sleep.

Thus ended the first day at
sea.

Aug. 15

Aug. 16th.

Hello Everybody

Breakfast at 7:30, lunch (we would call it a dinner at home) at 11:45; afternoon tea at four and dinner at 7:30. May is sea sick today. The boys having a grand time. We discovered another special delivery package. A box of special tied candy, cookies, fruits from S.S. Price company in New York sent by the Everett Church. What will our waist lines look like when we arrive.

May has spent most of today on deck in a deck chair. But has gone down to every meal. May conducted Church services in the main lounge. A Greek Orthodox priest helped him. May went up on deck before breakfast and didn't come down until lunch time. Felt much better after eating noon meal. We all came to our cabin then and slept until tea time.

V²

Kennie and I went down to tea. Tommie still slept. So we had the steward take tea to him and May in the cabin.

Then we all went on deck. We saw a lot of flying fish. They looked to be about the size of minnows from our deck. Probably a little larger, really. They leave little tracks where they skim over the top of the water.

We all went to bed early. May feeling better.

August 18, 1947

May is greatly improved. He and Kenzie took a long walk over the boat. He took pictures of all the children in our party. Miriam ^{Witchammy} took moving pictures of us all. We watched more flying fish. Saw a big freighter and passed her. The boys and I went to bed right after dinner.

(3)

August 22, 1947

3

Paul Blake's birthday. The musicians played for dinner tonight, for dinner. Kenneth and I went down and watched them. Each one smiled at him and bent down and played especially to him.

Kenneth climbed as far in the rigging as I would let him.

August 24

The cabin crew visited the bridge (captain's). Kenneth went with me and then again with his father. This boat is 27,000 tons.

August 20, 1947

Saw "Brief Encounter" in the dining room tonight.

Aug 19

May is all over his seasickness but he says he doesn't particularly care for ocean travel.

August 21.

(4)

May feels fine and is actually enjoying the trip.

The men look "play brook" and enjoy themselves together.

The boys turn with the children and are getting rested. We sleep from two to three hours every afternoon.

August 23 -

The sea is rough again we expect to be in Lisbon tonight. There is a very attractive young girl, Portuguese, who was born in America and whose home is there now.

She is coming over to meet her brother whom she has never seen. He is married and and she is going to visit with them for a while.

August 24.

We got into port just after midnight. How exciting to see the lights on the land.

(5)
This morning we had to
hurry to get our things packed
and up on deck for the customs
men. When we stepped from
the gang plank to the dock two
men soon met us and showed
us a handful of mail. One spoke
English about as we spoke
Portuguese. The other only
spoke Portuguese. We saw
our letter and what a wel-
come they gave us. They also
had mail for the other three
missionary families. They
whisked us through Customs
so fast and the officials only
looked into our ~~bags~~ bag.
I opened Mum's letter
and it was just like being
home. What a wonderful
letter to greet anyone!

So far Portugal doesn't seem
much different from a U.S.
seaport. Everyone is friendly!
We know enough of the

language so that they
don't seem strange.
Our landlady used to live
in Oregon and speaks per-
fect English. We are only a
few streets from the water
front. We came here in
four taxis - Austins -
each with our luggage stuf-
fed on behind. We had 12
pieces and the others had
just as many if not more.
Can you picture us? We
are all in the same
boarding house. This noon
we saw the workmen, who
are apparently laying a gutter
beside the street, cook their fish
right beneath our window
and eat it. After lunch we
all had naps. Now Max
has gone out to find out
a few things and then
we are all going exploring.
We can tell you lots!

August 25, 1947

Dearest Mother,

I was not sick enough to throw up on that sea voyage, but I've discovered that I'm a landlubber of the first order. That the trip to Africa will do to me I don't know but at least I don't have to start out on it tomorrow, which helps my feelings.

Betty has written the news. I trust her truthfulness and won't read. The men folk are going off now to the Customs House after trunks and so on. We have to move fast altho the weather is hot.

Lots of love to you all. It was so nice to get a letter from you within minutes of our arrival in Lisbon. God be with you.

Your son
Mickie