

(Keep)

Rua Victor Gordon 19-2
August 31, 1947

Dearest Folks,

First, thank you for the grand letters. We got them the twenty fourth, the twenty sixth, and the thirtieth. We were glad to hear news of Mack and Shiela. I guess that they have forgiven us.

Now for a little about Lisbon. In many ways it is like any American City. Ninet~~an~~^{an}h forty seven cars of American make are ~~an~~

numerous. We saw Buicks, Fords, Studebakers and Trayers. In some parts of the city the people look just like the people we saw in New York. The shop windows are full of American goods - Corcoran's, Gilman's Shaving Cream, "The Good Earth" - "Rebecca" Raisins, and apricots from California, plastic glass and just countless other things intact. I guess you could buy anything that you could buy at home, you can get here for a price.

In other ways it is interestingly different. There are no factories here, the trains are electric - hence no dirty smoke and soot. There are relatively few flies and no screens. The windows mostly are at least six feet

tall and open onto little balconies
like French doors.

In the narrow streets of the
old part of the city where we

go we see many
people carrying loads of food
on their heads. Most of them

are dressed in long skirts with
immaculate white blouses and
long dark shawls. Donkey carts

horse drawn vehicles and even
often are frequently seen. A

box of Ritz Crackers would
look like home but the
price on it would look
like this 27 \$ 50. To

a Portuguese it would
mean 27 escudos (their
dollar)

and 50 centavos. 100 centavos
make an escudo. Tran-

slated into our money it
would be \$1.10. Prices on

American things are really
high. The streets are all

paved with cobblestones
black and white. Most

of both streets & sidewalks

have lovely designs in them.

The city itself for the most part extends for miles along the river, on hills. One street may be connected to another by a series of stairs. Most anywhere you can stand and see the streets above you and below you.

The buildings are built out of

the same material that ground up makes white wash wash.

They are either pink yellow

or blue. Of course the big

important buildings are of

marble or granite.

The Avenida de la Libertad is

a beautiful broad Avenue

with Islands in the middle.

On some of these are statues

or fountains. On others are

seawalk Cafes where you can

buy Nikola (America's late

sensation it says

in English (on the bottle) or orangeade
as well as the wine. However
since I left New York, I have
only seen one intoxicating drink.

We are all well and happy,
and hope you still are. Let me
know will you how long it
takes our letters to get to you. Your
have all come in either four or
five days. The last one was
the four day one. Love of love
and may God guide us.
(P.S. This is our permanent address. I hope here in Lisbon)

Dearest Mother,

Betty wrote her letter in semi-darkness. The lights we have here are quite dim, and as yet we have not found a reading lamp, or asked if we can use a reading lamp, supposing we purchase one. We seem to have night work to do just the same as we had in America, and really need something for light after the sunlight has gone.

We have enjoyed your letters. Did I tell you that? And they come through quickly. Whether we can keep up this speed or not depends upon the size of our pocketbooks I can see, but we shall try to send airmail letters for a time at least.

Our language study is beginning. We have met three times as a group so far and will find out today what we can do individually with a man by the name of Senhor Lino, who apparently is very good as a conversationalist and can direct us in speaking with the Portuguese around us.

We struggle at times to make ourselves understood, but so far have ~~got~~ gotten along fairly well with the people of Lisbon who we have encountered in the stores, on the street cars and occasionally on the streets, although we try not to get lost and in a position where we must ask directions.

Am directing Earle Smith, our treasurer, to send you more money. You will need something with which to pay freight on the sea chest, also, some for living extras.

I must get a letter off to him now, so will close this with love.

God be with you, Rachie

Pensão Laranjo
Campo dos Mártires da Pátria,
32, 1º
Lisboa, Portugal
22 Setembro 1947

Dearest Mother,

Rua Victor Gordon 19-22 was our address. Now we have moved. We are in a more quiet neighborhood with as difficult an address, but with a good park directly opposite us and we hope that we can stay here as long as we have to be in Portugal.

Now let me explain about the address. I'll take it apart for you, so that you will understand the necessity for writing it as it appears here, and may I add here that I should have done the same thing with the other address in the next letter. The next letter has been detained. This is the last one and the next one because we found it necessary to move. First of all, we are living in a family hotel. Pensão means hotel, and we would say in Strong that this is the Hotel Laranjo. It is situated on the street called Campo dos Mártires da Pátria, which means, Field of the Martyrs of the Fatherland. But don't try writing that on a letter. Sheila tried it with the Centro address and we got the letter after it had been to the American embassy and had undergone translation from English to Portuguese. Our house number is 32. We live on the first floor, which accounts for the last number, the 1º. In this language here 1º is the abbreviation for primeiro, which means first. However, the first floor in Portugal is what we would call the second in America. The people begin here with the ground floor and then go up to the first floor, second floor, third floor and so on. So we really live on the second floor of the house. Do you understand my reckoning? If you don't, tell me about it.

Now we have a picture or two to send. Mummie got one or two good ones. You will see some other children in some of them, but you will see Tommy and Kennie also. There is a good one of both boys down at a park called Rossio. There is another of Tommy and Sue Ann Blake, whose father and mother and little brother (4) are going to Luanda. There is still one other taken in the same place, a tiny park near the other house where we were living. It shows T and K and Paul Blake with Sue Ann. Then there is another with

that we learn the language. We don't want to have to apply too many times for extension of visas. We want to be on the way, too. We enjoy much of the time here and shall have many new experiences, but we wish to go on as soon as possible. The future we cannot tell much about at the moment. We are studying outside of school, or rather before school begins. I don't know whether the school which has been planned will be any different or not, but the attempt is being made to initiate- initiate us not only into the language and its intricacies but also into the history and customs and mind of the people here. And we really ought to know a whole lot more than we shall be able to gather in a few months. But perhaps in a month and a half I shall be able to tell you more.

Betty is now outside in the park studying with a Portuguese girl who was in Africa for a number of years. The boys are with her. I'm attempting to do some letters while we are having a brief vacation from classes at the Centro. Our teacher has gone away for three days, until Friday. Hope I can do them before Betty comes back in. I shall leave a space for her to write something on this side and on the next, for I cannot write more now. Time is necessary for the completion of letters to Boston. More in the next. Perhaps if I keep notes on our activity and what we hear and see I can write a sort of diary to you in Maine.

Lots of love. Thanks muchly for the cards. They came several days early. And write to us at our new address, or to the Centro address, whichever you wish to send mail to. God bless you. *Lachie*

*Dear Folks,
Thank you for Mummie's birth-
day cards. They're new! Both boys
are in Mummie's bed. They are supposed
to be going to sleep but today they
are so full of energy that they
is almost impossible to hold them
down to anything. Mummie with
They are making it out here
some nice young stars out here*

Today, a little boy was telling me
Germie play with the people going
Kermie was simply thrilled.
Germie just said, 'I am a big
boy, mmmmm'. I can wash my
face and hands. He can and does
a very good job.
Oh, you asked if Kermie were
old enough to notice the difference
here and in America. He talks a
lot about things in America and
asks questions about things here.
He plays going to Grandma's
house in my airplane. Yesterday
day, he was taking me there
in his airplane. But first we
had to stop at Grandma's house.
Whenever he sees pictures of Cove
he talks a lot about Grandma's house.
Mother, we got those pictures that
we took in Marine developed first
before we left the states and didn't
get them sent to you. The ones the
whole of us is one more took but
with my camera. I can't find the
other negatives yet. They may have been
in the chest. I put some in the chest
on purpose. If you to get them developed.
as we didn't have time. Most of the things
in the chest are for you to use anyway
you want. The children's toys etc. There are
some letters - my & mine - that we want
to keep but didn't want to pay freight on. If
you want to use the chest for anything, good
and pack them in a box. Also I put Kirby &
L.H.D. presents in it. Did you?

Tommy alone looking at Mummie down by the river bank,
the Tagus River bank. I can't yet tell you the name of
the building in back of him. But the Sunday afternoon
that Betty took the picture we saw a strange sight to see
in the city. Perhaps not strange to Lisbon, and yet I've
seen this only once. And we should have gotten a picture
of the scene if we had not used the last bit of film
just before we saw what was going on. We were watching
the ferries come in. Then we moved toward the railroad
station, ~~down the river~~ up river a little, in order to give
the boys a change. We got down to where we could see
a corner of the stonework and found ourselves gazing
at about eight or ten boys of ages from ten to fourteen
who were in their birthday suits swimming in the river.
They swam there for about five or eight minutes with
many onlookers staring at them. Then they ran up the
bank, back across the street and in under the arches
of the building back of where Tommy was standing.

Sorry we could not put it into a picture for you. It
was a sight. We do hope to send other pictures, however.
We hope to take a few of the women carrying fish on
their heads, and the burros with baskets hung on either
side, and the electric cars loaded down with passengers
before, and behind until it seems about ready to break
down. There are many odd sights here, at least to our
eyes. Yet the people seem to move about in a kind of
existence quite the ordinary thing for them. Over in
the Rua São Paulo (St. Paul's Street) we have seen a
number of people begging. They are of all sorts. Many
times on our way to classes we have seen men playing
some sort of musical instrument collecting in the
street. Of course these men are earning their money
more than some of the other beggars. Some of them are
blind. But others, of course like those we have in
America, earn their living by living off some one else
with as little effort as possible. Guess the aspects
of the thing are about the same in America as here.
This is a large city and an old city and there is plenty
of opportunity for the continuance of age-old customs,
of which begging in the streets is one. I suppose this
makes the act seem more pronounced than in America.

Well, time flies by for us here. I've been trying to
get this letter off for four days. Summer has gone and
fall has come while I've been writing it. You can't
tell by the date at the head just when I began to
type. I've changed the date once just to make it seem
a little better to me. We are rushing around trying to

on a 3450 stamp (3 escudos and 50 centavos, or 3½ escudos) which is worth about 14½ cents. If the letter is a little heavy we add a 1875 stamp (1 escudo and 75 centavos, or 1¾ escudos) which is worth about 7 cents. Interesting, isn't it?

And you see what I'm doing now - trying to pack a lot of words into small space. I would use the typewriter, but my machine is in the shop for changes in some of the type to be made. When we write Portuguese we must use accent marks to show how a vowel is to be pronounced or where the emphasis is. It is to come, something which is not used in English writing.

We have been quite busy since we last wrote. The program is not as ~~short~~ intense as ~~one~~. We go to class five days a week. Every morning we meet for two hours and every afternoon for at least one and a half, occasionally longer. Of course this is what

Rua Victor Gordon 19-20
7 Setembro 1947

Dearest Rother,

Sunday afternoon, beginning our third week in Lisbon, and we take time out to write to the folks back home how we're feeling, what we're doing, where we have visited, how much we're leaving, and so on.

Just I all though, let me tell you how much we appreciate those letters which come to us. They come very speedily by air. The birthday cards arrived here in time for us to get them on the noon delivery, three days from the time they were stamped in strong until they were put into our hands at the Centro. And while I think of it let me say that you can utilize more space on your 10c airmail forms if you wish. We would use those, too, but they are not accepted here. So we use this very lightweight paper and buy a stamp of a little less than 15¢ value.

(5)

Now about the stamps which come to you. Those which I put on the manila envelope were the following denomination and worth the value in American currency which I shall attach to them.

20 escudos stamp (20\$100) - worth about 92¢.

5 escudos stamp (5\$100) - " " 21¢.

20 centavos stamp (20¢) - " " $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

5 centavos stamp (5¢) - " " $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢.

The American dollar was worth 24.40

escudos when we reached here. That rate applied to "greenback" currency. Our travelers' checks (American Express) were worth 24.765 escudos on the dollar. Last week the rate on

the "greenback" rose to 24.60. So you see it's a little difficult to figure the amounts of the stamps we used when you change to the American system, but generally we think the dollar as being worth about 25¢ and the escudos worth about 4% cents.

When we send an airmail letter we put

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I want, but we grow quite tired toward the end of the day. We exert ourselves sufficiently in a physical way and then are under considerable pressure mentally to learn the language and to make ourselves understood while we are learning. We shall be able ^{soon} to understand quite a lot better than we can make ourselves understood. This will work in great hardship perhaps, but we may begin to think that the process of learning a new language is not as easy as we had felt this one to be at first.

Now to change to your questions again. First, our landlady was born in Portugal I understand, and moved back here. Her daughter was born in Oregon, and came here with her mother, when she was quite young I believe. The daughter speaks a little English.

As to Sunday observance see opposite

(4)

There are only a few Protestant churches here. And we understand as yet so little Portuguese that we have not discovered where there is a church for English speaking folk. Of course we intend to go to a Portuguese church, but it is something we shall accustom ourselves to by stages because whenever we go it calls for another lesson in the language and our brains and bodies grow weary. I'll tell you more in a month or so.

Suffice it to say that Portugal has about one Protestant to every thousand Catholics.

Now, love until the next and God be with you both and all. A kiss

Dear Mather and Olive

You are so good to send me the lovely birthday cards.

Thank you just the same. We all read the letters in order as usual and enjoyed them so much. God bless you and help you to do his work with our best friends.

and on this page I'll try to tell you what we know. It doesn't amount to much. We went to the Episcopal church last Sunday. Today we have not been to church, except our own devotions here at home with a little instruction for the youngsters.