

Bellevue-Hotel, Wengen

Berner Oberland

Wednesday

19 September 1945

Wengen, Switzerland

My Dearest,

Hello, honey. I hope and pray that all is well with you. I am fine but wish that you might be with me. At present I am in one of the most beautiful spots I have ever seen. I have a couple of postcard pictures of the view from our hotel which I will send when I get back where postal rates are more reasonable and where I will not have to spend the limited funds I have.

We left the "leave center" at Mulhouse, France this morning early. We were awakened at 4:00 am and actually left about 6:30 on a train that took us to Basel, Switzerland. There we boarded a Swiss train (drawn by electric engine) and proceeded to Bern (the capitol) but stopped only a few moments and went on to Interlaken. There we changed trains and boarded a train which operated on narrow gauge track and was equipped with an engine which climbed the steep grades by a cog wheel drive operated on the special track between the rails.

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After a short ride from Interlaken we changed trains again to a still narrower gauge and came on up to Wengen. We arrived here about noon.

Gosh, honey, there is so much to tell I hardly know where to begin. First of all, I was wrong about the money. The tour cost us \$35⁰⁰ and we were allowed \$40.80 in spending money. We get 175 Francs in Swiss money. It isn't much, either, for even in this little village I have seen a number of things I would like to buy. However, I believe that I will save most of my money until we get to one of the cities later on.

Three of us went down into the village a little while ago and bought two bananas each. We paid about 30 cents for two bananas but they were the first we had seen overseas let alone taste.

I bought a map of Switzerland to chart my tour on and will send it home later.

We were given ration coupons for meals that we may want other than our regular meals at our hotel which are included in the tour. However, we will need the coupons for any beverage served with the meals.

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Milk, ice cream, bread, pastries, etc. are rationed items and to get such items we have to give up meal coupons. We get only one slice of bread with meals and if we should desire any additional slice we would have to give up coupons. We got only 12 such coupons.

Some items for sale are reasonable enough but with only \$40.80 to spend one must give a good deal of thought to buying an item that might be purchased elsewhere and does not have a real souvenir value.

Morning - 20 Sept 45

Hello, darling. Happy anniversary. It is a beautiful morning here. The sun is shining & the view is wonderful. Our hotel is on one side of a very steep canyon that is almost a gorge with a narrow green valley at the bottom miles down. Across the valley several waterfalls can be seen.

Well, darling, I must go to breakfast and begin the day. I'll write more later. How I wish that you might be here, too.

I love you darling.

(over)

Cliff

Last night the four of us that are travelling together went to a cafe in the village and had a couple of beers each while we listened to the music and watched the few dancers. The beer was very good and we drank the two bottles very slowly for full enjoyment and to make our money last. The beer cost 1 Franc and 20 Centimes a bottle (about 27¢).

We came back to the hotel about nine and went to bed in the soft white beds. Two of us are in one room and two in another with twin beds. What luxury and comfort!! It lacks only you, darling, for it all to be perfect.

But I must go now, darling. I didn't go to breakfast yet as two of the fellows were not ready. Goodbye for now. I'll be thinking of you.

Yours forever,
Cliff

T Sgt Clifton L. Gallup
Bellevue-Hotel, Wengen
(Schweiz)

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Mrs. C. L. Gallup
114 Michigan Street
Redlands, California