

the first letters without no.

no. 3

Tuesday — 8 April 41

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Kitty,

There is a petroleum lamp in front of me. (*Illegible, probably "Horl"*) is also writing to his wife. The farmhouse parlour is cozy, there are glasses with preserved fruits on the box. Until approximately 5h I was incognito — then there was a call for a painter and in the end, I was given the task of drawing something. I was already able to create the demanded item in my own home, which I now share with Horl. Well, I guess this is nice. It is the first time after I received my first long (*nonsensical, maybe "Hosen" = pants*) that I live my "age." The young ones sleep on straw in mass quarters. When we were trying to apologize for our dirty boots, the farmer's wife said right away: "Where there is no dirt, there are no people!" But everything is clean and well-kept here.

We are allowed to stay here for a few days, then our wandering circus is supposed to get on the road again.

There is little chance of a discussion, because most of the guys are 19, 20, 21 years old and know nothing. Yesterday we were informed by the lieutenant about the fall of Belgrade, around 3 (am or pm). We have no knowledge of what else happens in the world.

100 RA (*if it were RM it might mean "Reichsmark", the German currency at the time. Otherwise it might refer to rations, but that's just a guess*) should have been sent to you — have no concern in that regard — use it for a new skirt and do not forget, Tory stays Tory. It's already quiet here, and like at the fox borrow, I'm drinking cold tea. So far, I have not been used as a driver, but just have been driven around. I have taken photographs of dust clouds, made small sketches

and performed many household chores. Dust already knows my name, as do the old paper chips and cigarette butts. I hope I will soon be given tasks that I am suited for — otherwise I would feel horribly redundant — like a canary brought along for a search for truffles.

I'm smoking the beautiful pipe your father gave me and that makes me think of our crossings (*"Überfahrten" most likely refers to travel by ship*) — Columbus — Europe — Bremen. I wonder what is happening in the world? A day here as a soldier is much quieter than the most peaceful day in New York. Nature has a sense of humor, no doubt. The Auhof boarding school for girls lies far behind me — the conduct here is much more mature. Now, sleep well and create something beautiful. You would like it here. Unfortunate, that you are not allowed to be part of this. How's your portrait coming along? Did Gurlitt contact you? Please write a letter to your parents and give them my sincerest regards!

And now I have to sleep! Love!

Tory

Jenny would feel at home here, give her my greetings! T

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Kitty, dear little woman/wife,

I hope you receive these lines, soon! So far, everything has been like a cheerful school outing with beautiful weather and through areas, which both of us love so much. If you were here, oh, you would love it. Just now, we gathered in a school building that looks exactly like the parlours in Penns. With old oil prints on the white walls. The trees are blooming, and the evenings remind me of Parndorf. If only I had more time to describe the moods to you in detail and paint them. During peace times I want to drive you here (*"herführen" = lead / "herfahren" = drive ... I think the latter applies. The current spelling "herfuhren" is definitely incorrect*) in our (*missing word, maybe a vehicle or sorts*). It's true, I would not complain if you could be with us.

Sometimes, people were standing packed together at the side of the road, waved at us, and gave us Easter bunnies made out of bread dough and carrots. I'm carefully memorizing everything, so that you can experience everything later through my stories.

I love you

(*illegible/nonsensical, probably "With Love"*), Your

Snugler

August would like it here very much, as well.

Today, the OLD men will receive private quarters! The mail is supposed to go out. Never worry if you don't hear from me for a longer period of time! T

Of course, I am not allowed to write where we are. Take care of yourself and write beautiful articles. I already look forward to your reports!

T