

Kuhn, Hans, First Lieutenant  
06/13/41.

O.U.,

2<sup>nd</sup>/Ln. Betr. Abt. z.b.V. (mot) 11 [*Translator's note: Ln. Betr. Abt. z.b.V. = "Luftnachrichten-Betriebs-Abteilung zur besonderen Verfügung" = air message operation department for special disposition*]

Dear Mrs. Planckh !

As the company commander I want to express my condolences in these days of hardship, brought about by the death of your beloved husband. Your husband was an outgoing, friendly and remarkably competent soldier, from the first day of duty. He especially gained my sympathy and the sympathy of his company comrades through his camaraderie and joyfulness.

As you have already been informed by the local military hospital, your husband was suffering from dysentery, which caused his death, despite the most substantial efforts of the doctors. Just a few days ago, I was happy to fulfill your husband's wish to inform you of his well-being. I did this from Belgrade.

I myself was utterly surprised and deeply disturbed to hear of his death. I and all comrades of the company can appreciate, how great your loss must be. The deceased was optimistic until the very end and also believed that he would soon be able to leave the hospital as a healthy man. A tender perforated ulcer suddenly burned through the stomach wall and lead to a sudden but painless death.

Dear Mrs. Planckh, please rest assured that your dear husband performed his honorable duty for the Fatherland most diligently and that his death, too, helps build the new, strong Reich. As painful as this loss is, especially for you, your husband will be remembered forever by us. He will always be remembered with great respect.

*(Signature)*

First Lieutenant and Company Leader

no: 36

23 May 1941

Kitty B,

A few minutes ago, I saw something and now I have been torn out of some kind of dream and feel like I am neither here nor there. Do you know what I saw? The May issue of the NEW LINE (Neue Linie) booklet! Why could it not be the Mode [*“Mode” = fashion, but use of the word “Moder” (which means “rot/mold/decay” and also makes no sense here or below) below makes me wonder if this is something else than “fashion”*]? Two swallows carrying field mail in their beaks – much blue and red.

I love the title page (Is it good? In reality?). I hope the Moder [*no reference found for “die Moder”...“der Moder” would be “mold”. Maybe Moder is the name of a person?*] will soon cross over the high mountains. Since I paid for English watercolor paper and the company cash box has not reimbursed me yet, I have to be extremely careful about what I spend, otherwise I would have bought the booklet, right away. I worked very well today, and I am slowly getting back into the gouache technique. Since Sunday – today is Thursday – I have painted 18 pieces, 10 of which I will certainly be able to use. I am sad that you can't see them. I would love to hear what you would say. I wonder how August will like them? A line of cars like this is not pretty – it messes up the landscape. I am using the desired motives as excuse for the different moods of the landscapes. For example, I painted a debris site in Marissa in fine evening colors – where only a lonely Greek sits with a lemon-yellow hat – on a thin-legged chair in front of thing-legged table with a bottle on it. His suit is completely black, the way the southerners like it. My motivation? On one plank I painted our road sign. (In Belgrade, I had to produce 20, I already wrote you that).

Then I painted how our convoy stops in a suburb of Slaoniki and is surrounded by street vendors. The color atmosphere was eerie and would fit this place well, mainly in a visual sense.

You cannot send me money, I heard. As I understand, there are few wares there.

Department L-20813

O.U., 10/14/1941

L.G.P.A. Breslau. [*Translator's note: L.G.P.A. = "Luftgaupostamt" = "aerial region mail office"*]

CONFIRMATION!

We hereby confirm to Mrs. Ruth Planckh, neé Mc. Vitty, that her husband, Fkr. Viktor Panckh of the above department, died due to dysentery on 11 Juli 1941 at the air force military hospital.

[Seal]

[Signature]

First Lieutenant

096 Telegram

German Reich Postal Service

From Vienna f 00618 56 25/6 41 1035

Recorded

Day Month Year Time

State

Transmitted

cc 25 6 52 wiry

Mrs. Ruth Blanckh

Day:

Time:

From: By:

Vienna 114 Plötzleinsdorfererstr 22 =

From:

By:

Office Vienna LU

[Stamp]

Your husband died at the local military hospital 3/571. You were sent a more detailed report by the Chief Physician and First Lieutenant Kuhn (leader of your husband's company). Your husband's belongings will be immediately sent to you. Again, we offer our sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathy in light of your loss (answer to your telegram of 06/08/41 =

First Lieutenant Kuhn LV Athen ++++++

For important official inquiries