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22 July 54
HQ TRUST
7100 A.U.

Dear Elz:

I arrived Trieste last night. I have now completed one day of duty here in my new assignment. I have definite mixed feelings about this job... and am not so sure I will like it here. It's too early to say definitely.

This has previously been a hily white post - all white personnel. Negro personnel come only with integration... and then only few in number. Unsofar as I have been able to learn from talking to the only other R-2 Officer I have seen, who is himself a Doctor or a dentist & is departing for the States tonight, ~~there~~ there are only three of us assigned to TRUST HQ. with him leaving, there will be but two including me. I have seen quite a few R2 EM's driving army vehicles about. I asked one today, who had bought a coke and was drinking it, if he liked Trieste & how long had he been here. He answered: "Been here nearly 2-years but dont like it a bit." "Why?" I asked: He didn't

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2/ answer, but seemed to drop off into somber reflection. I then said "Is it what I'm thinking?" He looked at me seriously and replied "Yes Sir, that's it."

Now Elz, if you can guess what I was thinking, you know why that R-2 EM ~~idea~~ doesn't like Trieste. I know what I was thinking of, but am not so sure he knew. Therefore I'm not sure if I know why the young man doesn't like Trieste. One thing I'm sure of, his reason is somewhat and in some way associated with Trieste's lily-white background which is now, in some way, affecting that young man's social relationships to such an extent that he considers it an overall reflection upon himself to profess it.

My uncertainty has to do with the cold, matter-of-fact reception I received at HQ. It was uncalled for, unnecessary and downright rude. I would add — vindictive and hostile — but will refrain until more time passes by to confirm or reject those

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3/ adjectives.

However, my assigned job is that of Asst TRANS Officer to a MAJOR who is the T.O. His attitude seemed one of guarded complacency. I am not ready to evaluate him as yet... not until he observes my performance of duty. It can be said of him that he has not shown open hostility... nor has he radiated any semblance of warmth or welcome. He is not the Motor Transport Officer. He is Transportation Officer for all of Trieste. I am not an assistant motor transport officer, but the Assistant Transportation Officer for all of Trieste. I am in charge of operations which includes Rail, marine, & air: - The RTO and all personnel movement of Troops, individuals, ~~deposits~~. It's even more than all this when you consider the tension here. It's a big job, fraught with pitfalls for the non-diligent. But if anyone has any ideas that laxity will entrap me, he'll have to stay awake nights concocting more to replace the ones that will most certainly prove disappointing. More about this later. I'm not moody or disheartened, even tho somewhat disappointed. But I wonder why when I'll ever get a good assignment where I can be at ease & do my job without all the tenseness that seem to come ~~the~~

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4) despite devotion to duty? I guess the answer is: not until after I have twenty (20) years of service to my credit. After that, it will not matter because I will then take over the driver's seat.

I cannot possibly reveal to you the situation here. It is more than the papers ever hint. Suffice it to say that it's razor ~~edge~~ edged and firecrackerish. I will be able to tell you things one year from now that I dare not hint now. My previous info was not accurate about dependents, nor ~~is~~ ^{is} it as gloomy as may appear. We cannot place a request for dependent travel until we have been here five (5) months. It's the law here. But there's a 50-50 possibility of you being O'seas within 9 months.

But when one considers that that is the average waiting time in Germany (except Frankfurt - only 4 months there) it's doesn't appear so bad. In some places in Germany, the minimum waiting time is one year-plus. The tales told by returnees & the concurrent travel talk of the newspapers do not measure up to the actual situation in Europe.

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5) The rule here is: make application in 5 months. your dependents should arrive in Germany about the same time you rotate for reassignment there after spending 9 months in Trieste:--or perhaps not more than one month after rotation. Our priority will be based on seniority within the theatre (Europe) and will take its place on the list accordingly.

I am so sorry that I must wait so long for you + the children. Frankly, I am greatly disappointed in this respect. Golly, Louise will be walking and running all over the place + won't know me at all. I don't think of this too much because I really do get low morale.

I hope things will work out at home for you as we planned. I have not left my room since supper at 6:00 PM. Been burning the midnite oil on SOP's + regulations pertaining to my job. Got to. I don't have any ~~the~~ time to ~~the do so~~ do so. ~~at~~ otherwise. Because if things break here, I've got to know. There won't be time to learn or complain about just arriving. So I'll be in at nights for quite some

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1/2 time. \$

Trieste is quite picturesque, but my workload has blurred + clouded its ancient + historical beauty which I observe only on hasty jaunts thru the city from one place to another on my orientation trips.

It will probably be months before my footlocker + duffle bag arrives. We get a station allowance here of \$ 1.25 per day over + above our pay. But food costs \$ 2.85 per day, Billett fee is \$ 1.00 per day. We can contract to eat for \$ 1.85 per day for 30 days. ~~the~~ on contract we must pay whether we eat 3 meals ^{daily} or not. I judged it to be less expensive in the long run, so signed the contract. I don't know what laundry prices will come to yet. Must be paid in lire.

That's all for now

Love

Hubby
C. W. [Signature]

6/

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Love Hubby

Ivory Cobb

Note:

Tell Marilyn + Gretel to write
Daddy a letter. Have them tell
me what sort of souvenir they want
me to send them

Also send me the names of the
neighborhood children so I can
send them cards. First and
last names.

Also address of Capt Winston.

llh

Enclosed is part of my train ticket from
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