

TRIESTE

9 Oct 54

Dear Elz:

Tuesday 4 Oct was the announcement I knew the date long before. ... That was the reason for my ^{last} Feyhorn trip. But in matter how much planning and advance knowledge, the date was subject to change ... which still made it quite indefinite ——— But since Tuesday, we have been on the go — night + day. Our^r job is to move out the entire command — to evacuate it from here to Feyhorn from which it will be further redeployed to places unknown to us now. Germany, Austria, France are the likely places. Which do you prefer? Americans over here are practically unanimous in not wanting to go to France because of reported high cost of living plus growing dislike of money spending Americans. I must admit I'm catching the "avoid France" feeling and attitude even tho I feel it would be different in our case.

I hope you won't oppose Austria ... because that's a likely destination for me. If I end up there it will probably be in Salzburg. That's not too bad as it is only

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27 a two-three hour drive to Munich. The reason for this apprehension is as follows: Some high ranking VIP's came down from Austria the day after the official announcement. There were eleven of them - mostly all Colonels. Their announced mission was to give such technical assistance as might have been needed in evacuating Trieste. There was one representative from each technical branch of the service. The TC representative came down to our section and stayed throughout the day observing activities. We were so busy that he was given little attention because we had a big job - in fact the biggest + most responsible of all the services - that of moving everyone out by rail, highway and water. Ours was a heavy of activity all day long in accord with plans well laid + formulated since the TC + I both arrived in Trieste. We could only talk to the Col representative at lunch time and at the supper table. We had to run out on him, we sort of resented his presence on this occasion because we had work to do and he was in the way. But he was nice about it even if his feelings were edged. I felt sorry for him. It ~~became~~ became one time because I know that field graders are entitled to more attention. But we didn't need his advice or his assistance and had a good

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arise. Our plans for each of our sections were
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overall planning. We knew exactly what
to do from the moment the button was
pushed. We had thoroughly oriented all
our personnel in exactly what they were to do.
We worked long hours to do this and never
let up, until we were confident that every-
thing had been well coordinated. So when the
signal was given we went into action according
to plan. We couldn't let the Colonel's presence interfere
and didn't.

However, it soon developed that the
Col had other instructions also. This came
out at the official dinner for the VIPs.
As a result, I was invited to go to
Salzburg Austria as a member of a special
group engaged in the rewriting of the
regulations. I was urged to accept and
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I am not too optimistic one way or the other.
I'm sort of indifferent. It was flattering
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SUNDAY 10 Oct 54.

Today is D+6... a normal work day.
We were on the job as usual. We must work
around the clock to move out this command
in the time allotted. Feyhorn Port
Command sent a Major here two days ago to
act as liaison between Trieste + Feyhorn.
That's where this command will go initially
before being redeployed elsewhere. He is
Major Walker. Today he made a request
of my section chief, Major Clymer, that
I be assigned to Feyhorn. He said the
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me answer him tomorrow. Off hand, I
favor Salzburg. What do you think?

Seems as if the various commands have
sent "scouts" here to grab off the officers
desirable to their commands. A fight may
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We will not leave Gieste before 25 Oct 54.
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I have bought a birthday present for
Gretel. It will be mailed tomorrow. I hope
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