

LIVORNO, ITALY

Dearest Elz:

We've been toying with the idea of being home for two but can't get the powers that be to give me 30 to 45 days. Claim I can't be spared that long. The more I ponder the idea, the more desirable it becomes. I have not given up. I will try at my new Hq in Solzberg, Austria, when I arrive there around the latter part of December.

Latest on my assignment: G-1 called me Sat morning (yesterday) to tell me as follows: They had knowledge of my dissatisfaction with the task co assignment; that they had, in turn, phoned Solzberg to check the possibility of me getting my original assignment to the 102nd Trans Traffic Regulatory Group; that they were told by Solzberg to tell me that there is still the possibility of getting what I want; that they ^(Solzberg) do not want me to do anything further or to make

LIVORNO, ITALY

Dearest Elz:

I've been toying with the idea of being home for Xmas but can't get the powers that be to give me 30 to 45 days. Claim I can't be spared that long. The more I ponder the idea, the more desirable it becomes. I have not given up. I will try at my new Hq in Salzburg, Austria, when I arrive there around the latter part of December.

Latest on my assignment: G-1 called me Sat morning (yesterday) to tell me as follows: They had knowledge of my dissatisfaction with the trk co assignment; That they had in turn, phoned Salzburg to check the possibility of me getting my original assignment to the 102nd Trans Traffic Regulating Group; That they were told by Salzburg to tell me that there is still the possibility of getting what I want; That they (Salzburg) do not want me to do anything further or to make

② Any complaints about it down here, but to come on up there and they will see what can be done about it; that I was merely assigned to the Tpk co because they had to put me somewhere, but that that assignment is not firm, and does not necessarily mean that I will remain with it; That the Transportation Chief there in Salzburg will make the final assignment and it may or could be one I want.

This phone call to me from G-1 was not requested or sought by me. Of course, I have made no bones about the raw deal I'm getting. — made it quite plain ~~on~~ in a business-like fashion to the Chief of Staff. Although I did not say it directly, I indicated that all my inquiries into the change of assignment pointed to one reason only — Race. I related, factually, that the 102 was short of officers both in Germany and in Austria; that the 440th Tpk co was not short of officers and already had a Captain

2)

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This phone call to me from G-I was not requested or sought by me. Of course, I have made no bones about the raw deal I'm getting. – made it quite plain ~~an~~ in a business-like fashion to the Chief of Staff. Although I did not say it directly, I indicated that all my inquiries into the change of assignment pointed to one reason only – Race. I related, factually, that the 102 was short of Officers both in Livorno and in Austria; that the 440th trk co was not short of officers and already had a Captain

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in command; that I considered it unjust,
~~to~~ unwise, and illogical from a career
point of view to send me back to trucks
when I had already spent 10 to 11 years
of my 12 years service with trucks; that
nothing was to be gained ~~from~~ by me or
the Army, and that career-wise, the Army
and I both would suffer; that the
Officer already in command is doing a
good job or they would have relieved
him long ago; and that I had searched
for a good sound reason for changing my
assignment to the Trk Co and could not find
any sound reason in the best interest of the
govt; and that the only other possibility
on the horizon was one contrary ~~to~~
and inimical to the interest of the govt
and was based on purely outmoded and
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3)

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that I did not know at that time what ~~any~~ avenues of appeal I would resort to but that I thought he ought to know how I felt about it and that I intended to do something to remedy it.

Now, in the light of this phone call to me from G-1, I surmise that USFA has been prodded to come up with something in the way of a better assignment or an air tight reason for sending me to the truck Co. USFA's answer ^{and advice} to complain no more and that the assignment can be adjusted is sort of a double-edged sword: one edge to quiet me before I come under their jurisdiction: the other to cut me down to size when I ~~can~~ get there.

On the other hand I got the idea and impression that those who still oppose ~~to~~ integration and would still impose segregation within their own boliviaks

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don't want it known — and above all —
don't want it to become a matter of
official complaint or public attention
because it is now contrary + and
against the LAW of the land + the
military. It is tantamount to dis-
obeying orders from the Commander-in-Chief
+ Pres. of U.S. Also it is contrary to the
practices + principles of Genl Ridgeway
who is supreme boss over here.

You may be sure that I will not
do anything "rash". You may be equally
sure that I am prepared to meet any
head-on bility for de-integration as far
as it is within my sphere of activity and
influence to do so. I have not done all
I propose to do down here, but I will
not ruffle USFA's hair the ~~to~~ wrong way.

This coming week, I shall make some per-
sonal contacts with Colonels here in Jovins

5)

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don't want it to become a matter of
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You may be sure that I will not
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head-on blitz for de-integration as far
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I propose to do down here, but I will
not ruffle USFA's hair the ~~æ~~ wrong way.

This coming week, I shall make some per-
sonal contacts with Colonels here in Livorno

⑥ who recently were assigned down here from
Solzberg, and who know USFA's set up inti-
mately, and who are personally acquainted
with the "wheels" up there. Perhaps they
will make some phone calls on a personal
basis and adjust the matter. This is
a most desirable way -- and it will avoid
a head on racial episode, which is
the least of my desire, and which would
only be resorted to ^{to} challenge de-inte-
gration itself.

Seems as if Pioneers go from one crisis
to another. We won the Trieste affair amicably.
Perhaps it was only a stepping stone to this
USFA episode. However, we are prepared to
do battle if need be, but will ~~try~~ ^{try} to
keep this "cold war" from breaking into
open hostility. I know you are on my side, that's
why I say "we." If we turn manly, Grell + Fouise
force on them, they'll surely yell: "UNCLE"
Love Abby Susy Koff

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who recently were assigned down here from Salzberg, and who know USFA's set up intimately, and who are personally acquainted with the "wheels" up there. Perhaps they will make some phone calls on a personal basis and adjust the matter. This is a most desirable way - - and it will avoid a head on racial episode, which is the least of my desire, and which would only be resorted to only to challenge de-integration itself.

Seems as if pioneers go from one crisis to another. We won the Trieste affair amicably. Perhaps it was only a stepping stone to this USFA episode. However, we are prepared to do battle if need be, but will ~~try~~ try to keep this "cold war" from breaking into open hostility. I know you are on my side, That's why I say "we". If we turn Marilyn, Gretel + Louise loose on them, they'll surely yell: "UNCLE"

Love Hubby

Ivory Cobb