

J. Stanke

Baumholder/Nahe, Sept. 9th, 1954
The American Express Company, Inc.
Postfach 24
Or via APO 34, US-Army

Dear Robert:

I don't know if you can imagine how I was enjoyed about your letter. I have not heard from you since 1946 and since then already 8 years have been passed. Every year my mother and I were talking: "What is he doing. Why Does't he write?" But now we got the answer.

I'll tell you what happen since Oct. 1945 as you left Parsberg for Passau and than afterwards for the States.

1946 I started to work with the Countrymaster Office at Parsberg where I worked until Dec. 1949. In Jan. 1950 I lost my position due to a cut-down in personnel of the office. I was the youngest one and my father was teacher so the authorities said: "There is no reason why he is working for us since his father is teacher. He will feed him." 1946 one of my sisters came back from Silesia; she is now married with an Hungarian and is living in Sydney Australia. She has 2 boys, aged 7 and 3 years. My other sister is living in the Russian Zone of Germany and is also married and mother of 3 children.

Unfortunately my father died in May 1950. So my mother and I were alone. I used my time and went again to school and learned book-keeping etc for 6 month. 1952 I got again a position with the Bavarian Red Cross. In January 1952 I read an add that the American Express Company, Inc. will open up an office at Hohenfels (Training Reservation of the US-Forces). This place is about 10 miles far from Parsberg. I worked there for 1½ year as a Teller (banking) and were trained as a Travel Clerk. In September last year we closed our office down for good and I was transferred to our office at Baumholder. We are here on a big Army Reservation around Trier, Kaiserslautern, Frankfurt/ o.Main. The Surroundings here are beautiful. We just have it about 30 miles to the Mosella River with its wine yards and old castles and to the famous Rhine River only 70 miles. This is nothing for me with my motor-cycle which I bought last year.

I personally like my work. It is interesting. In the time I am here I was 3 times in Paris and 2 times in Amsterdam as a tour escort.

From August 7 to 22 I was on leave. I flew from Frankfurt to Berlin where I met my sister from the Eastern Part of Germany for short 3 days. I have not seen her since 1947.

Then I flew home from Berlin to Nuremberg and by train from there to Parsberg. In order to keep my leave schedule up-to-date, I travelled to Munich for the Opera Festival 1954 and attended a performance of the "Marriage of Figaro" from Mozart. On August 17 my mother and I went to Bayreuth to the Richard Wagner Festival. We saw a master-performance of "Parsifal" with international soloists, conductors and audience. This was the highlight of my leave.

Now I am back for duty again.

In the meantime I was again in Paris for 3 days and for 2½ days together with my girlfriend by motorcycle for a short visit of the Black Forrest.

Now, that's enough from me. What about you? You are an Highschool teacher now? How come? I can remember that you talked something about another position.

We had a nice trip but $2\frac{1}{2}$ days are too short to make a trip with 400 miles.

To-day at night I am leaving again for Paris. I hope that there will be nice wether. But I know out of my own experience that always, when I am in Paris we have ~~xxxx~~ rainy wether and coldness.

how best regards. I hope that I will
hear news from you

Yours truly