Sunday July 10, 1949

Dear Lenore,

This afternoon we left Vienna by motor car and travelling down the Danubian Valley arrived about an hour ago at this small Austrian town of Linz. It became important during the war because Göring built here under the mountains a steel plant employing 47,000 people. We are now billeted in the house over this vast underground factory which was occupied by the German Gauleiter,

Bitter fighting took place in the area before it was knocked out. We have an occupation force here now of about 3000 men and a 150 bed hospital. It is a some what isolated post. I shall not speak more of it.

I do want to tell you about Vienna. We left Munich on Thursday night on the one American train allowed to cross the Russian zone each day, a distance of about 200 miles — an over night trip. The train — the "Mozart" famous even before the war is now

what is known as a "sealed train" i.e. one can not get off after boarding. It is guarded by American troops. Vienna, like Berlin, is in Russian territory. Only the city is under four power control. The one real fear of the Americans in Vienna is that they will be blockaded. It would be impossible for them to get out and the Army feels that an air lift here would be impossible.

We arrived at about 6.30 AM

and were met by Col. Sailor C.O. of the 110th Station hospital. After breakfast we made rounds, watched the chief surgeon operate, had lunch, gave a talk followed by a two hour seminar and then the Col. announced that tickets were available for the opera to be given that night. We skipped dinner in order to get into town by 6:30 PM.

The opera, the Beggar Student was delightful. It cost of about 200 lire a seat. A beautiful revolving stage with

Viennese music such as
can the Viennese can play
in Vienna. The four of us,
Reich, Middleton, Tovell and I,
enjoyed it a great deal. I, of
course did not understand
all of the German, but the
story developed in such a
manner that the sense was
easily followed. Being a
light opera, the music was
the thing. Incidentally, we
sat in the Emperor's Box.
It now is assigned to the American
General commanding the area

during the rotation of supreme command. Each month it changes. When the Russians are in charge, the box belongs to the Russian General, then in turn the English and French. No Austrian is allowed to set in it.

There is this difference between Germany and Austria. Germany is an occupied country, the occupying forces govern their areas. Austria is a liberated country - they run it them-

selves. In truth there is very little difference. Neither has any money. American money is the building each and doing every thing possible to show the natives that our way of life is the best way. Best in Austria I believe we have been successful.

Vienna, while it has many buildings in ruins was not devasted like the German cities. It is still a great capital in spite of the fact that

it is the capital of a lost empire hence must surely die. It is a city of lost dreams and music. Every little cafe has music. I have not had a meal outside of the hospital where there was not music — all kinds — from Bethoven to very good American swing. The one defect in the picture is the fact that we are always with Colonels & Generals who of course do

not indulge in the pleasures of the S.I.s and who at all times are playing a game of bluff with the Russians and conduct themselves in an absolutely impeccable manner. We, as representatives of the surgeon general, do likewise. Even this however has not spoiled the enjoyment of the vast historical panoply stretched out on all sides. The great and beautiful palace

of the Hapsburg's palace (Burg) in the city and the simply marvelous summer place called Schönbrun. Here Marie Theresa raised her 16 children and gave orders to the rest of the world. From here little Marie Antoinette went to become Queen of France and her sister to become Queen of Holland. Here Napoleon

lived from 1804-1809
and married the daughter
of the Emperor of Austria.
Here Franz Joseph was
born, reigned longer than
any monach in history
and finally died to join
137 kings of the Hapsburg
line in a common resting
place. Here Mozart, Hayden
Schubert and Bethoven left
their immortal heritage that
still lives so lightly in

the heart of the people.
These are not the war like
Herren folk of north germany.
They as in the past sip their
small cups of Turkish
coffee at the numerous out-
of door cafes. On weekends
they hike by the thousands
to the nearby Vienna
woods.

This city is the melting
pot of the East and West.
The turkish influence
is still seen in its

-church towers and archi-
tecture, its people are more
cosmopolitan than those
seen in the German cities.
They are poor, but so was
Schubert - so was Bethoven
who was buried in potter's
field before his genius became
appreciated. Vienna is still
a fascinating place.

I had the pleasure of
making rounds at the world
famous Allgemeines Krankenhaus
(3000 bed gen. hospital)

It is shabby and poor treatment at least 15-20 years behind ours, yet to watch Herr Geheimrat Prof. Dr. Hermann Finsterer operate was a great privilege. He has done over 8000 gastric resections. No one else in the world can even approach this.

Tomorrow night I go to Salzburg, up in the Austrian Alps. I hope that all goes well. I love you all so much. Charlie