

Berchtesgaden: 5 May '45

~~Ernst Hattler~~

My Beloved! Today has been almost unbelievable in practically all respects. I am #1. A radio message just came telling us to do no more fighting unless fired upon or attacked. The war is over. I am not nearly as elated as I thought I would be, probably because I haven't had time to let it sink in. I can feel a terrific let down starting however. This morning several of us took off to see Hitler's retreat. As you have read, it was severely bombed last week. Everything above ground was ruined, the parts that the bombs did not get were finished by S. S. troops yesterday afternoon. It was placed about 1/2 way up a tremendous mountain. From the Terrace you can look up three incredibly beautiful valleys. This morning the sky was very blue, the mountain tops were covered with snow. At the snow line the tree line took up the color scheme adding a dark green, the woods are checkered with



light green patches of grass and decorated with the  
pretty mountain houses. Far off to the right you  
can see out into the plain. Hitler picked a fine  
spot for a house. We went down into his air raid  
shelter. It goes down into the mountains a good 100 yds.  
and tunnels wander for miles. I picked up a few  
items which I shall bring home. (a silver bot with  
A.H. on it, an ebony bot from a Japanese prince, an  
enamored table cloth for mother, some cologne for Peggy,  
and a beautiful glass cocktail set) Some people got  
complete silver sets, but the idea didn't appeal to  
me, they were all engraved A.H. I will not chance  
them in the mails, but will bring them as I have said.  
I have never seen so much lovely china, porcelain,  
and glass. All of the stuff was the best the world  
could make, and it was all there for the taking.  
I wish I could have had some way to pack  
and use it or even some of it. The shelter was



a small village complete with hospital, living quarters, theatre, kitchen, light plant etc. I saw only a small portion of it. Large portions being shut off by steel bulkheads. I imagine that by tomorrow it will be all open. I don't know where we will be then, but if here I shall go back about dawn for a quiet look.

The following weeks will be difficult. I don't know of course what we will be doing, whether the Pacific, occupation troops, or home. I would say we have about a 30-70 chance of getting home. We will undoubtedly occupy for some time, and when we finally find out about ourselves, months of waiting for it to happen. I do know that I love you my darling and that the longest part of our time apart is now over. This is the first time that I here felt we were really on the home stretch. Word just came for us to plan a move. I must get bed roll rolled etc,

I will write more tonight or in the  
morning. I love you dear for now and  
always

Gordon



up 8.1 Kinder 00413085  
643 FAB APO # 758

GTK to CSK 19450505  
Borchtes gadeu

Radio Message: stop shooting.  
Ahmos + feel later bit down. Visited  
B. on 4 May. Went into air raid  
shelter + tunnel. Souvenirs.  
Thomis kings lovsh. Shelter =  
small village w/ hospital, medicine  
Where to next? 30% chance of  
home.

Scan

GTK to CSK 19450508  
VfDay - Salzburg

In German airfield w/ cow parts  
of crane. On 7th, end of war party  
Sent CSK some framed - real stuff.  
HPS visit to RH. German planes  
landing, surrendering. N. is not outside  
out of Munich. German surrender.  
GTK in charge of entertaining troops.  
Convert hangar into theatre despite  
Wend King's speech-stammer  
retired like. GTK taking over Exercise  
no words in name. Salzburg beauty job  
Hints at difficult days past.

Scan

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