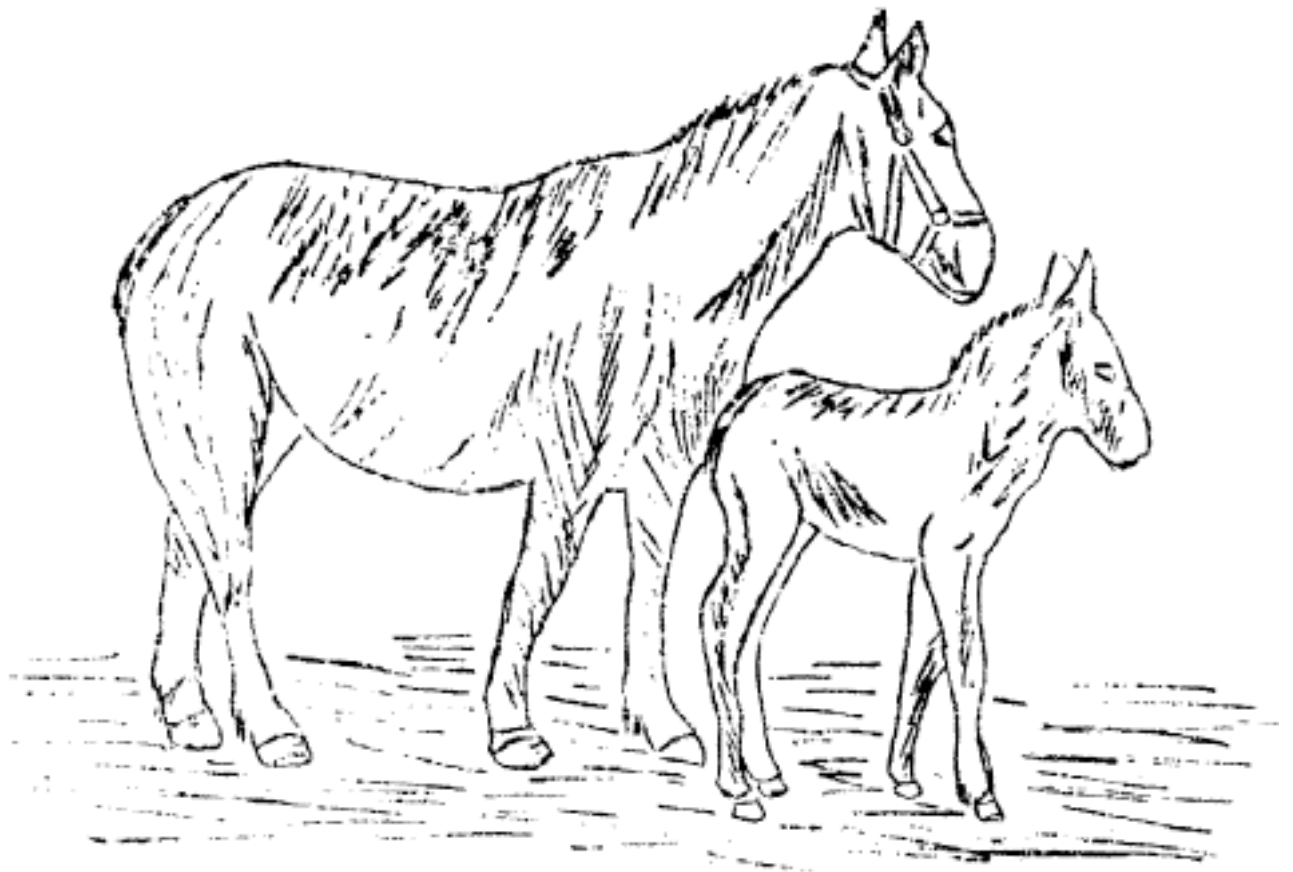


Gross Breesen  
Letter 10



Virginia May 1941

Aus dem Rundbrief, den die Doktorin zusammenstellen wird, werdet Ihr sehen, dass alle H.F'er gut untergebracht sind und fast alle durchaus zufrieden sind und was noch wichtiger ist: man mit ihnen, soweit das bisher gesagt werden kann. Unsere Menschen werden - ob sie es wollen oder nicht (und die meisten wollen es) als Hyde Farmländer angesehen werden und von jedem einzelnen hängt es auch ab, ob wir den guten Namen, den wir bisher hatten, beibehalten werden oder nicht.

Ihr werdet nun fragen, ob das Aufgeben von H.F. nun auch das Aufgeben aller unserer früheren Pläne bedeutet. Für viele von uns kann ich diese Frage glatt verneinen. Die einzelnen werden sich jetzt draußen im Leben bewähren müssen, sie müssen noch viel zulernen, müssen die Sprache besser beherrschen und müssen versuchen, viel stärker in das amerikanische Leben hinein zu kommen. - Die Aufgabe, die wir uns gestellt haben, für weitere jüdische junge Menschen aus Europa, die Landwirte werden wollen, vorzuarbeiten, kann **zur Zeit** nicht fortgesetzt werden. Wir wissen nicht, ob und wann neue Aufgaben da sein werden, aber viele von uns sind durchaus bereit, an einer neuen Arbeit mitzuwirken, wenn sie uns gestellt wird, und wieder zusammen zu leben und zu arbeiten. Sie werden es dann viel besser können, wenn sie mehr gelernt haben und wenn sie menschlich und wirtschaftlich weitergekommen sind. Klar, manche werden abfallen und manche werden dann andere Möglichkeiten und Pläne haben. - Vielleicht ergibt sich auch keine andere **gemeinsame** Aufgabe mehr: dann werden wir jeder allein unser Leben gestalten müssen, genau wie Ihr anderen Gross-Breesener es auch tun müsst. Und da gibt es wohl noch Aufgaben genug für den Einzelnen!

In den letzten beiden Monaten sind wieder viele Briefe aus der ganzen Welt gekommen und wir wollen Euch nun berichten, was wir von den Einzelnen wissen.

Laßt bald wieder von Euch hören!

Euer *Bo*.

From the circular that the lady-doctor will compile, you will see that all H.F'ers have been well accommodated and almost all are thoroughly satisfied, and what is more important still: one is satisfied with them as far as can be said until now. Our people will be looked upon - whether they want to or not (and most of them want it) - as Hyde Farmlanders and it also depends on each single one whether we will maintain or not, the good name which we have had so far.

Now you will ask, whether the closing down of Hyde Farmlands also means the relinquishment of all our former plans. For many of us, I can answer this outright in the negative. The individuals will now have to prove themselves in the life out there, they have to learn a lot yet, have to master the language better and have to try much harder to enter into the American lifestyle. - The task, which we had set ourselves, to do the groundwork for further Jewish young people from Europe who wanted to become farmers, cannot **at present** be continued. We do not know, whether and when there will be new tasks, but many of us are absolutely prepared, to participate in any new task, whenever we are faced by it and again to live and work together. They will then be able to do it much better, once they have learned more and when they have advanced personally and financially. Obviously, some will drop out and some will at that time have other opportunities and plans. - Perhaps also, no other **common** task arises any more. Then we will have to shape our life, each one by himself, exactly as you other Gross-Breeseners have to do it too. And there are probably still enough tasks for each single one!

In the last two months, many letters have arrived again from all over the world and we want to report to you now, what we know about everyone. - Let us hear from you soon!

Yours *Bo*.

Piedmont Sanatorium, Burkeville, Va.,

4-19-41

There are three of us sitting here on a hot afternoon only a few miles away from Hyde Farmlands, Toepper, Red and myself. Red is reading. Toepper and I have piled up your letters on a table, and while we are looking through them to get material for the circular letter we are thinking and talking of every single one of you.

We shall tell you about all the boys and girls from whom we had mail lately. We will only mention addresses which have changed.

Toepper and Red have been called up now for the beginning of May. Probably they will start their training in Camp Lee, Hopewell near Petersburg, Va. However you may send mail for them to my address, I shall forward it to them.

Here is Toepper's report of 3 days at Hyde Farmlands:

#### Ein Augusttag 1939.

Nächste Woche sollen die Jungen aus Deutschland kommen. Die Platzfrage ist schon dreimal hin und her überlegt worden, Mrs A. hat mit Haka bereits die Anschaffungsliste geschrieben und nach Richmond eingereicht, und Ernst hat die Füchse besonders gründlich geputzt, damit Hansel nicht et-

wa auf die Idee kommen konnte, das sei in "this country" nicht nötig. Gemeinsam mit dem Manager ist eine Hausordnung entworfen worden, denn jetzt müssen die Zügel etwas straffer gehalten werden; die 6 Neuen werden sicher eine große Klappe riskieren - und dem muß man vorbeugen. Die Mädels machen Gardinen an und suchen das Bettzeug heraus. Sie freuen sich auf den Zuwachs, trotz der zu erwartenden Schwierigkeiten. Es ist doch der erste Schritt zum Weiterkommen, es kommt mehr Leben in das Haus und unter Umständen kann ab und zu einer der Neuen im Haus helfen, damit sie auch einmal rauskönnen. Auch das Badezimmer kann nun sicher alle 8 Tage naß gewischt werden! - Draußen ist es heiß, August. Nur abends ist es etwas erträglicher und dann gehen sie spazieren und überlegen sich, was jetzt wohl alles gemacht werden kann, wenn so viel neue Arbeitskräfte kommen. Da ist der Zaun kaputt, hier soll noch Winterhafer hereinkommen, das Heu muß geschnitten, die Reuter repariert werden, und außerdem muß noch einmal durch das Corn kultiviert werden. Zu tun ist schon, ganz bestimmt. Jetzt fragt sich nur, wo man die einzelnen Leute hinsteckt. Aber das wird sich schon zeigen. Hauptsache, sie sind erst einmal da.

Jeden Tag kommen neue Überlegungen, tauchen neue Pläne auf, kommt das Gespräch immer wieder auf die 6 Neuankömmlinge, bis eines Tages der Rote Truck den Highway 49 entlangsaust, um die Jungen in Burkeville in Empfang zu nehmen.

### Ein Septembertag 1940.

Bondy sitzt an seinem Schreibtisch und sieht aus dem Fenster. Eigentlich hat er sich fest vorgenommen, heute die beiden Kapitel über "Crime and Twinstudies" zu Ende durchzuarbeiten, aber es ist so interessant, das Leben draußen zu beobachten, dass seine guten Vorsätze alle 5 Minuten vergessen werden und die Augen sich schon ganz mechanisch vom Buch zum Fenster wenden.

Eben laufen Hermann und Floh, je mit einem 2 by 6 auf der Schulter, draußen vorbei. Loghouse 8 ist im Bau und Hermann hat geschworen, dass es übermorgen fertig ist, wenn nicht etwas ganz besonderes dazwischen kommt. Rolf weint schon seit einer Woche, dass er das Haus braucht, weil er die pullets nicht auf den range legen lassen will. Einige Gesprächsfetzen dringen nach oben. "Weisskäse..... beam..... Weihnachtsmann Du....." und ab und zu das schrille "hihihihi" von Flohs Lache. Dann verschwinden sie um die Ecke und Bondy versucht, den Inhalt des nächsten Satzes erst einmal zu übersetzen und - Krrach! geht es unten, brubrubrubru, briiiii! - Er fährt hoch, versucht, den Ursprung des Geräusches zu ermitteln. Noch ist nur der Lärm zu hören, aber jetzt schiebt sich langsam der Kühler des blauen Trucks hinter dem Haus vor und damit ist der Grund des Geräusches klar. Es ist nur Wolfgang drin, der vom 1. in den 2. Gang zu schalten versucht und aus Versehen etwas zu weit nach rechts gekommen ist. Jetzt kratzt es, aber sein Beifahrer, den man nicht von oben erkennen kann, hat anscheinend jetzt den Ganghebel erwischt, denn der Lärm ist vorüber und der Wagen rollt, voll mit Heu, dem Pferdestall zu. Bondy, (25 Jahre Autopraxis!) schüttelt den Kopf und greift nach dem Lexikon, um das verfluchte Wort klar zu bekommen. 5 Minuten lang geht die Arbeit ruhig weiter, bis - ja bis der Wortwechsel unten vor der *porch* zu laut wird. Zu sehen ist nur Pimpf, mit naktem Oberkörper, weißem Helm auf dem Kopf und einem Korb mit grünen Erbsen in der Hand. Zu hören sind mindestens 4 Mädchenstimmen: "Warum hast Du denn die Tomaten nicht gebracht, wo ich es Dir doch extra gesagt habe"? - "Die Erbsen sind gar nicht zu verwenden, die hättest Du gestern pflücken müssen..... " - "Warst Du mit den Dreckschuhen im Haus? Dass Ihr boys aber nicht etwas Rücksicht nehmen könnt!" - "Die Tomaten sind anyhow alle verfault, Du elender Affe Du..... " - "Pimpf, nimm sofort den verfaulten Kohl auf den garbage, verstanden"? - Alles Übrige ist nicht mehr zu verstehen. Klein, braungebrannt und grinsend steht Pimpf vor der Porchtür, dann dreht er sich um, setzt den Korb mit den Erbsen auf den Boden und zitiert laut den Goetz von Berlichingen. Die Porchtür klappt zu, das Gekeif verzieht sich ins Innere des Hauses und Bondy, der drauf und dran war, sein "Herrschaften" herunterzurufen, wendet sich wieder dem Buch zu. Aber noch einmal wird er abgelenkt. Hinten vom Lowground kommen gerade die Gespanne heim. Vorne der grüne Wagen mit Corn, an dem die beiden Mules schwer ziehen. Schorsch kutschiert und Prinz sitzt hinten drauf (mit dem Kopftuch sieht er aus wie seine eigene Schwester). Dahinter kommt, voll mit Fodder, der Hayframe. Ernst Loe., lenkt die völlig nassen Füchse und der ganze "workgang" liegt faul oben drauf in der Sonne. Fiffi, Toepper, Paul, Hansel und Isi. Von irgendwoher tönt jetzt auch das tiefe Brummen von Red's Traktor. Bondy weiß allerdings nicht, ob es nicht Ernst Cramer mit dem "Roten Truck" ist. Bevor er es aber raus hat, läutet unten die Glocke das erste Mal zum Essen, und nun zieht er energisch die Brauen zusammen, richtet seinen Blick auf das Buch und lernt die letzten 10 Minuten ganz intensiv über "Crime and Twinstudies".

### Ein Apriltag 1941.

Vor dem großen Haus, an der backporch, steht der "Rote Truck", und ein Junge ladet ihn voll. Kistenbretter, Papierkörbe, Gummischäfter, es ist einfach nicht festzustellen, so viel Verschiedenes ist

es. Der Platz ist tot. Ab und zu hört man eins der Frankenkinder aufjauchzen, aber sonst ist es so still, dass man das behagliche Knurren von Tommy hören kann, der faul auf dem Rasen in der Sonne liegt und mit dem Schwanz auf den Boden schlägt. Der Junge lässt über das Frühstücksgeschirr, es ist von 4 Leuten nur, Wasser laufen, damit es ein bißchen einweicht, und setzt sich in den Truck. Die Fuhre ist voll, jetzt geht es zum Garbageplatz. Alles ist herrlich grün. Überall im Wald und im Park blüht es, die Luft ist warm, beinahe schon zu warm, und im Vorbeifahren sieht der Junge, dass die Kirschenbäume schon Knospen angesetzt haben. Ihren Halsumschlag aus Dachpappe haben sie allerdings auch noch. Der "Rote" klappert ein bißchen! Na, morgen wird er verkauft, das stört nicht mehr. - So, und hier ist der Garbageplatz. Eigentlich hat er sich seit dem Beginn von H.F. nicht sehr verändert. Er ist etwas voller geworden, aber der Grundeindruck ist geblieben. Jetzt also rückwärts an den Haufen da ranfahren und runter mit dem Zeug! Stück für Stück fliegt zu dem alten Eisen, den leeren Konservenbüchsen und Semi-Solid-Buttermilk-Fässern. Ab und zu stutzt der Junge, wenn etwas Bekanntes in seine Hand kommt. Aber nur einen Augenblick, dann fliegt auch das herunter. Da, Otto's Plattfüßeinlagen, Prinz' Hut, ein alter Schuh von Martin, ein Kleidergürtel von Inge. Was es auch sei, erbarmungslos trifft sich alles unten wieder. Friedlich vereint liegen die kleinen Besitztümer so vieler Jungen und Mädels, und der Garbageplatz fragt nicht, danach, ob sich die Besitzer wohl gefreut hatten, wenn sie so zusammengeworfen wären wie jetzt ihre Sachen. Als letztes folgt ein einzelner Strumpf, 158 gezeichnet. Sicher ein Werkdörfler! Aber schon sitzt der Junge wieder im Truck, langsam rollt der Wagen wieder rückwärts zum Mailboxweg und ab gehts, nach Haus? Heute ist der letzte Tag, morgen schläft er schon wo anders und dennoch war es "zu Haus"!

Innen ist es leer. Nur noch Papierfetzen und Staubschnitzel liegen auf der Erde. Keine Möbel mehr, keine Bilder. Kahl und hässlich sehen die Wände jetzt aus, alles ist so staubig und schmutzig. Man sieht, dass seit einigen Tagen kein Mädel mehr im Haus ist. Die Jungen haben keine Zeit zum Saubermachen.

Er geht noch einmal durchs ganze Haus und sieht, ob er nichts vergessen hat. In das Zimmer kommt Henry rein, als Angestellter von Franken. Da muß also noch unser Zeug raus. Na, heute abend! Red's Geschlampe liegt überall herum. Es wird auf seinem Bett "versammelt". So, und nun den Besen! Zimmer für Zimmer wird durchgegangen, die paar Restgegenstände werden auf die Seite gestellt und dann wird gefegt. "Kehraus"! Der Dreck kommt in einen Papierkorb. Wem hat der noch gehört? Egal! - Als letztes kommt der Eß-Saal dran. Nur die Uhr steht noch, und drei Tische an der Wand. Halt, das Klavier ja auch, das gehört jetzt Mr. Franken. Systematisch fegt der Junge vom Fenster zur Tür. Nur in der Mitte fegt er vorsichtig um einen Stapel Handkoffer herum. Es sind seine eigenen..... Eigentlich war es ein schöner Traum! Aber jetzt ist er zu Ende! Wie sagt man so oft? Ach so, richtig; Finale!.....

#### **An August-day 1939.**

Next week the boys from Germany ought to arrive. The question of where to place them has already been considered three times this way and that way. Mrs. A together with Haka have already written down the list of things to be purchased and submitted it to Richmond and Ernst has cleaned the Fuechse particularly thorough, so that Hansel will not possibly get the idea of this not being necessary in this country. Together with the manager, house rules have been drafted, for now things have to be kept a bit more firmly under control. The six newcomers will certainly venture a big mouth - and that has to be prevented. The girls are hanging curtains and are picking out the bedding. They are pleased about the increase despite the difficulties to be expected. It is after all the first step to advancement, the house is going to be more lively and perhaps now and then one of the newcomers can help in the house, so that they are able to get outside. As well, the bathroom can certainly be mopped once a week now! - Outside it is hot, August. Only in the evenings it is little more bearable and then they go for walks and consider everything that can possibly be done now when such a large new workforce arrives. There the fence is broken, here winter oats has still to be sown, the hay has to be cut, the ricks have to be repaired and apart from all that, the corn has to be scarified once more. There is plenty to do, quite definitely. The question is only whereto allocate each one? But time will tell. That they be here is the main thing.

Every day fresh thinking comes up, new plans emerge, the discussion again and again about the 6 newcomers, until one day the red truck roars along highway 49 to welcome the boys in Burkeville.

#### **A September-day 1940.**

Bondy sits at his writing desk and looks out of his window. Actually, he has firmly resolved to work through to the end today, the 2 chapters of "Crime- and Twins-studies". But it is so interesting to observe the life outside that his good intentions become forgotten every 5 minutes and the eyes already turn quite automatically from the book to the window.

This minute, Hermann and Floh are walking past outside, each with a 2x6 on their shoulder. Log-

house 8 is under construction and Hermann has vowed that it will be finished the day after tomorrow, unless something extra special crops up. Rolf already cries for a week, that he needs the house, because he does not want the pullets to lay eggs on the range. Several snippets of conversation penetrate upwards "cottage cheese..... beam..... father Christmas you....." and from time to time the shrill "hihihihi" of Floh's laughter. Then they disappear around the corner and Bondy tries to first translate the contents of the next sentence and - Baaang! It goes down below, brubrubruru, briiiii! He starts up, tries to establish the cause of the noise. Only the racket is still to be heard, but now the radiator of the blue truck moves slowly from behind the house and that explains the cause of the noise. Only Wolfgang is inside, who tries to switch from first into second gear and inadvertently has come a little too far to the right. Now it scrapes, but his passenger, who can not be recognised from above, has apparently got hold of the gearlever, for the racket has ceased and the truck rolls, full of hay towards the horse stable. Bondy (25 years of driving experience!) shakes the head and takes hold of the dictionary to sort out that damned word. For 5 minutes the work proceeds quietly until - well, until the verbal exchange below in front of the porch becomes too loud. Only Pimpf can be seen, with naked upper part of the body, white helmet on the head and a basket with green peas in the hand. At least 4 girl's voices can be heard, " Why didn't you bring the tomatoes, when I did tell you especially"? - "The peas can not be used at all, you should have picked them yesterday....." - "Were you in the house with these filthy shoes? But that you boys can't have a little consideration!" - "Anyhow the tomatoes are all rotten, you miserable ape you....." - "Pimpf take the rotten cabbage to the garbage straight away, understand?" All the rest can't be understood any more. Small, burnt brown and grinning, Pimpf stands in front of the porch door, then he turns around, puts the basket with the peas on the ground and loudly cites the (Goetz von Berlichingen<sup>1</sup>). The porch door bangs shut, the carping goes on inside the house and Bondy who was on the verge to call down " Herrschaften<sup>2</sup>", turned again to his book. But once more he is diverted. At the rear, from the low-ground the teams are just on their way home. In the front the green cart with corn drawn by the two mules with all their strength. Schorsch drives and Prinz sits at the rear (with the kerchief he looks like his own sister). Behind follows, full up with fodder, the hayframe. Ernst Loe drives the completely wet Fuechse, and the whole workgang lies lazily on the top in the sun. Fiffi, Toepper, Paul, Hansel and Isi. Now from some place or another resounds also the deep drone of Red's tractor. Though Bondy is not sure whether it might not be Ernst Cramer with the "red truck". But even before he has found out, the bell down below rings the first time for the meal and now he energetically draws together his eyebrows, turns his sight towards the book and for the last ten minutes acquaints himself intently with the "Crime- and Twin-studies".

#### An April day 1941.

In front of the large house at the back porch stands the "red truck" and a boy is filling it up. Planks of cases, paper-baskets, rubber-boots it's simply impossible to tell, it is such a variety. The place is dead. Now and then one hears one of the Franken children shout, but otherwise it is so silent, that one can hear the contented purr of Tommy, who lies idly on the lawn in the sun and beats the ground with his tail. The boy runs some water over the breakfast utensils, it is only that of four people, so that it soaks a bit and sits down in the truck. The load is full, now it goes to the garbage dump. Everything is splendidly green. Everywhere in the forest and in the park it blossoms, the air is warm, almost too warm already and while driving past, the boy sees that the cherry trees have already come out in buds. Although they still have their neck-poultices of tar-paper. The "Red one" rattles a bit! Well tomorrow it will be sold, that doesn't matter any more. - So, here is the garbage dump. Actually, it has not altered much since the beginning of Hyde Farmlands. It has grown somewhat larger, but the basic look has remained. So, now to drive onto the heap backwards and down with the rubbish. Piece after piece flies to the old iron, the empty food-cans and semi-solid buttermilk tubs. Now and then the boy hesitates when something familiar comes to hand. But only a moment, then it flies downwards too. There, Otto's arch supports, Prinz's hat, one of Martin's old shoes, Inge's dress belt. Whatever it might be, it all meets again down below, mercilessly. Peacefully united lie the small possessions of so many boys and girls, and the garbage dump does not ask, whether their owners would have been pleased if they had been thrown together in the same way as their belongings now. As the last item, one single sock follows marked 158. Surely a Werkdorfer! But already the boy sits in the truck, slowly the truck rolls backward to the mailbox-way, and down it goes, home? Today is the last day, tomorrow he already sleeps elsewhere and nonetheless it was "a home"!

<sup>1</sup> For those not familiar with this great drama of Goethe's, the citation reads as follows: "I tell you, you can lick my ..... [ shuts the window]"

<sup>2</sup> One of his favourite exclamations, probably translated best as "Hey you!" to calm the crowd.

Inside it is empty. Only bits of paper and scraps of dust are lying on the floor. No furniture any more, no pictures. The walls look bare and ugly now, everything is so dusty and dirty. One can tell that for several days no girl has been in the house any more. The boys have no time to clean up.

He goes once more through the whole house, to see whether he has not forgotten anything. Henry enters the room, as employee of Franken. This, our stuff has to go outside yet. Well, this evening! Red's sloppy things are lying about everywhere. They will be "collected" on his bed. So, now the broom! Room after room is gone through, the few remaining items are put aside and then the place is swept. "Farewell celebration!" The dirt goes into a paper basket. Whose was this? No matter! - The last is the dining hall. Only the clock is still there and three tables against the wall. Hey, the piano of course too, that belongs to Mr. Franken now. Systematically the boy sweeps from the window towards the door. Only in the centre, he carefully sweeps around a pile of hand luggage. It's his own..... Actually, it was a beautiful dream! But now it is finished! How does one frequently say? I see, of course. Finality!.....

.....  
**Broetchen** has been drafted, too. His present address is:  
 Hans Heilbrun, Fort Eustis near Norfolk, Va.

.....  
**Ernst Cramer** and **Trudi** have taken up jobs on the same dairy farm:  
 c/o Mr. Gamage, Newstead Dairy, Cartersville, Va.

.....  
**Hermann** is working as cabinetmaker in Richmond:  
 Hermann Kiwi, c/o Mrs. Meyer Milkin, 2404 Maplewood Ave., Richmond, Va.

.....  
**Manfred** und **Rudi** are working there, too, as carpenters. Sometimes they are doing a plumber's work. They are both living together:  
 Manfred Lindauer and Rudi Caplan, 1213 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Va.

.....  
**Isi** and **Klaus**, **Rolf** and **Wanz** have still their jobs of which we told you in the last circular letter. Isi and Klaus and Rolf have already got a raise of their salary. They and the Richmond folks often meet on Saturday night and Sunday.

And here is a letter from Isi and Klaus:

"We have just learned that there is to be published another circular letter and want to say by this way "hello" to all Breesener folks, as it is not possible to write everyone personally (we write already too much!). As most of you already know, we are working for Mr. Civil on his dairy farm, which is well known for his fine guernsey-herd.

We both like it very much and think we can complete our dairy- and farm-knowledges, as this is a farm with up-to-date equipment. We live in a 4-room-cottage, running water, electricity, radio, furnished with things from H.F. We are boarding with the foreman of the farm.

**Klaus** is in charge of the dry cows, that means, heifers, nurse-cows, bulls, calves and besides that to milk 16 cows by hand, which are going to be dried off.

**Isi** does general farm work, but has enough contact with the dairy, so that he can improve his knowledge in it. In the moment, he is white-washing with another fellow some miles of board-fences with increasing enthusiasm.

As we are so close to Richmond (only 12 miles we often hitch-hike to town and see Bo and the carpenter-fellows.

Isi has got his questionnaire for the army and hopes to join up soon. He also has heard for the first time from Schnauzi, who is together with his parents near Warsaw.

"We hope to get the circular letter soon, so that we know again, how you all are getting along. - Best wishes to all of you, -

Yours *Isi and Klaus.*"

.....  
 P.S. We have got a letter from **Bernhard Ehrlich** telling us about the progress of their ICA-settlement near Buenos Aires. He also wrote that Albrecht Mueller and wife are in Buenos Aires after they haven't got enough credit by the ICA to start an own settlement.

Bernhard's address is: Rivera F.C.S., Provincia Buenos Aires. Argentine.

**Martin** and **Hilde Sobotker** have gone to Florida on a poultryfarm as a couple.

Address: c/o Sunset Farm, Sunset Drive, South Miami, Fla.

.....

**Marianne** is working hard in a High school in North Carolina. Probably she will graduate at the end of May. Address: Dorland Bell School, Hot Springs, N.C.

.....

**Wolfgang** has found a pleasant job on a farm near Chicago.

Address: Wolf S. Stein,c/o B.F.Stein (boss), DuffieldFarms, Waukegan, R.F.D.2, Ill.

.....

**Friedel** has settled down in Chicago. He has got a particularly well paid job as a drawer, just as he has always wished to have one. - Address: Frank Durban, 1445 East 68th Street, Chicago, Ill.

.....

**Carola** (Rollaff) is happy as domestic help and children' nurse with pleasant people near.

Washington. Address: c/o Mrs Bryan, P.O. 95, Falls Church, Va.

.....

In the North you will find at present: **Walter Mielziner**, who is still in his old place.

.....

**Bueh:** **Gerhard Buehler** c/o G.B. Ross Cady, Auburn R.D.6, N.Y. - He writes:

..... As to my humble self I am very happily working on a big dairyfarm of over 1000 acres with more than 400 head of stock, so there is some work to do, you can imagine. However it is very easily done as the barn and everything is ingeniously planned and designed. I am learning quickly a lot. I live with my boss who was once a hired man himself and started on a little farm some twenty odd years ago. We have two good saddle horses and when I get done with work on Sunday morning I am riding out. Otherwise I still find time to read and write essays and letters and now and again I listen to good musics.

.....

**Meui** has arrived in New York about a week ago.

.....

**Lu** who has been ill is staying there too:

Address: c/o Dr. Tréfousse, 41 Belmont Terrace, St. George, Staten Island, N.Y.

She feels much better now and will be able to take up a job soon.

.....

**Ernest Loewensberg, Hansel** and **Fiffi** are still in the same places. Hansel and Fiffi wrote that they are going on well and that they can still learn a lot.

.....

**Inge Kirschroth** has trained as a masseuse. She likes her new job very well.

Address: 3615 Elm Ave., Baltimore, M.D.

.....

**Dackel** is working temporarily in a Golf Club and will change his job in May. He hopes to be able to start his study for agriculture, specialising in poultry, at the State College of Pennsylvania in fall this year.

.....

**Pimpf** has a job as a gardener: Address: Ernest **Hyman**, Rose Tree Road, Media Pa.

He wants to take up his studies in Fall 1942 at the same college as Dackel.

.....

In Carson College, Flourtown, Pa. There is a whole crowd of former Hyde Farmland people:

**Ruth** and **Eva** are working as student assistants, and **George Landecker** and **Prinz** are working

in the Dairy on the farm of this college. They are telling you their story themselves:

Carson College.

April 22nd, 1941

I think that here in Carson College the largest Group of H.F. is living: **Prinz, Ruth, George and Eva.**

The college is an orphanage for girls of all ages. But you would hardly know that it was an orphanage, because there is so little to remind you of it. We have about 75 girls here who are divided into 6 families. Each family has her own house and garden and a housemother to take care of them. The girls do their own cooking, cleaning and every house is really a home by itself. Then there is one big house that has very big rooms for entertainment, a gym and the office. That is where we live. The first few days we hardly dared to walk through the hall and the corridors because the house seemed so terribly quiet and then you would notice any noise much more. But now we got used to it. Maybe it just seemed very quiet to us after having lived in H.F. for some time. We have a radio, pianos and Ruth and I share a bathroom with the only girl that lives here besides us and it is big enough for 40 people. Maybe not quite that much.

Friday and Saturday nights we usually have activities such as woodcarving, hiking, knitting and always dancing. Then all the girls come to our house here and it is a lot of fun. You should see those little girls doing a jitterbug. They learn it early. Our boys are usually too bashful to dance although they do not seem to mind having so many girls around them.

Now about our work. The boys work on the farm and dairy. George mainly in the dairy and Prinz does all sorts of work. I help in the dairy on Sunday afternoons, milk the cows and fill the bottles. People here think it queer to do that as a recreation. There is a very nice little barn, 9 cows, ca. 10 heifers, a few calves and a bull; then a milk house with cooler, steriliser etc. In summer they milk out in the pasture. The college has about 45 acres open land and they grow corn, oats, and green things for the silage.

Ruth works here in the big house as assistant to the teacher of housekeeping who is also the cook. The members of the office staff have their meals here. Ruth helps with the cooking in the morning. She also does some housework with a group of girls in the afternoon and has to see that they do things right.

I, Eva, work in one of the other houses as a housemother's assistant. I cook, do the laundry, housework, look after the children and at the moment I am pretty busy in our garden too. I planted all the early stuff already and am doing a lot of beautifying too. Last week I scrubbed our chickenhouse and tomorrow we are going to get our 24 New Hampshire reds back, so there will be more work there too. To-day I sowed some oats, so that the chickens will have a little range. I keep pretty busy all the time. My day starts at 6.15 in the morning and straight on till 10 o'clock. Then I am off duty until 4 o'clock. During that time I read, sit in the sun, unless it rains, go for walks, mistreat the old pianos and mess around. From 4 to 8 then and that is my day. At 8 o'clock my children have to be in bed and that is a job. I don't think that I ever was as bad as that when I was 8 years old. But maybe I just don't remember. They all have to be kissed good night and if they are good I have to sing them a German lullaby (poor kids). Sunday is all free for me.

We all are very happy here and people are very nice to us. There are some very nice people here and we have been taken for rides in the car etc. The country is a little hilly and makes the impression of being rich too. Big estates and well kept gardens and farms you see around here. Oh yes, I nearly forgot one thing. Very near to my house is a big race track and a famous stable. Each morning beautiful race horses are trained and exercised and I usually manage to just see them go by - I am just making friends with one of the owners, maybe he will let me ride some day.

I guess that this is about all. I could write more, but writing is not my strong side. We are leading a nice and pleasant life and I wish everybody the same.

Yours, *Eva.*

## Brazil

Here is an excerpt of a long letter from **Juwa:**

Und nun möchte ich noch versuchen, ein wenig von meinem Leben hier draußen zu erzählen und von meiner Stellung innerhalb der Colonie. Es ist nun fast zwei Jahre her, dass ich nach Rolandia kam und hatte ich damals wirklich großes Glück by Herrn Kaphan die Arbeit beginnen zu können. Ich habe in dem einen Jahr, welches ich dort als Lehrjahr verbrachte, fabelhaft viel lernen zu können und war es natürlich ein sehr großes Plus für mich, dass ich gleich auf der besten Fazenda habe anfangen können zu lernen.

In diesem einen Jahr habe ich umgelernt und mehr noch zugelernt. Danach arbeitete ich fast ein

halbes Jahr auf einer benachbarten Fazenda, wo hauptsächlich Schweinezucht getrieben wurde und ich auch in dieser Richtung fehlendes Wissen noch ergänzen konnte. Die freundschaftlichen Beziehungen zur Familie Kaphan wurden in dieser Zeit nicht unterbrochen sondern ich verbrachte sehr viele Wochenende dort. -

Nachdem Herr Kaphan vor kurzer Zeit die Oberverwaltung über die Fazenda von Dr. Stinnes erhalten hatte nahm er mich nach dort als seinen verantwortlichen Inspector. Diese Fazenda allerdings liegt etwas außerhalb des Kreises der Fazenden wo ich zuletzt lebte und komme ich jetzt nicht mehr oft dorthin zurück. Herr Kaphan kommt öfters mit dem Auto nach hier und habe ich dann ab und zu einmal Gelegenheit mit nach Fazenda Jahu zu fahren. Das ist auch wohl der einzige etwas weniger angenehme Teil des Wechsels, denn in der dortigen Gegend habe ich nun unter den vielen Menschen mir einen ganz kleinen Kreis jüngerer Menschen zusammengesucht und wir standen sehr fein zueinander. Wir können uns allerdings doch all 4-5 Wochen stets einmal sehen und bin ich also nicht ganz einsam.

Und nun - Fazenda Ubatuba - . Die Fazenda gehört zu den größten Besitzungen in der hiesigen Gegend und ist nicht nur landwirtschaftlich sehr großzügig angelegt sondern auch industriell mit Säge und Ziegelei aufgebaut. Wir haben elektrisches Licht hier und Steinhäuser - hier wo vor drei Jahren noch die Affen kletterten und die Papageien schrien und noch nichts von den modernen Errungenschaften der Welt ahnten. Wir haben sehr gutes Land besonders Caféland und werden dieses Jahr ca. 200 000 Cafébäume pflanzen. Café ist nämlich immer noch der beste Artikel in dieser Gegend und da der Boden so ausgezeichnet gerade für den Cafébau ist wird diese Gegend in gar nicht mehr allzulanger Zeit das wichtigste Cafégebiet Brasiliens werden. In den alten Caféstaaten Brasiliens werden jetzt die Cafébäume ausgerissen und dadurch wird unser Gebiet immer wichtiger. Außer dem Café bauen wir die üblichen Feldfrüchte der hiesigen Gegend an: Mais, Reis und Mandioka. Auch in der Viehzucht steht die Fazenda mit an der ersten Stelle mit einem Viehbestand von etwa 100 Köpfen - Indu-Zebu-Rindvieh und einer großen Herde von Pferden von etwa 80 Köpfen. Für europäische und auch amerikanische Verhältnisse und auch für brasilianische Verhältnisse ist dies nicht sehr viel aber wenn man bedenkt, dass dieses ganze Vieh unter großer Mühsal wochenlang nach hier getrieben werden muß oder erst nach einer mühseligen Bahnfahrt und großen Strapazen hier angelangt und dass die Weiden erst dem Urwald abgerungen werden müssen, dann ist dies doch eine recht große Menge. - Und meine Arbeit hier besteht nun in der Aufsicht des Viehs, der Aufsicht über den Feldbau und die Arbeiter. Eine Tätigkeit, die mir sehr großen Spaß macht und in der ich nicht nur meine Kenntnisse schon verwerten kann sondern auch noch recht viel zulernen kann. -

And now I would still like to try, to tell a little of my life over here and of my position in the colony. It is now almost two years since I arrived in Rolandia and at that time I was really fortunate to be able to begin my work at Mr. Kaphan's. In the one year that I spent there as a year of an apprentice, I have been able to learn a fabulous lot, and of course it was a great point in my favour that I have begun learning immediately at the best Fazenda.

In this one year I have retrained and still learned more. Subsequently I worked for nearly six months on a neighbouring Fazenda, where mainly pig breeding was carried on and I was able to make up for missing knowledge in that direction as well. The friendly relationship with the Kaphan family was not interrupted during this period and I spent many weekends there. -

After Mr. Kaphan had recently obtained the management of the Fazenda of Dr. Stinnes, he took me there as his assistant manager. Though this Fazenda is situated somewhat outside of the group of Fazendas where I was staying last and now I only get back there rarely. Mr. Kaphan frequently comes here by car and then from time to time I have the opportunity to go with him to the Fazenda Jahu. This is possibly the only somewhat less agreeable part of the change too, as in the neighbourhood there, among the many people, I have collected together a quite small group of young people and we had a very fine relation with each other. Though we are able to see each other all the same constantly once every 4-5 weeks, hence I am not quite lonely.

And now - Fazenda Ubatuba -. The Fazenda is amongst the largest estates in the local area and is not only equipped agriculturally on a large scale but also constructed industrially with a sawmill and brickworks. We have electricity here and brick houses - where three years ago the monkeys still climbed, the parrots screeched and did not have any inkling of the modern achievements of the world. We have excellent soil, special coffee-soil and this year will plant about 200 000 coffee trees. Namely coffee is still the best produce in this region and as the soil is so excellent just for growing coffee, before long, this area will be come the most important coffee-region in Brazil. In the old coffee states of Brazil the trees are torn out now and because of that our region becomes increasingly important. Besides coffee we grow the usual agricultural crops of the local area, maize, rice and mandioca. In stock breeding as well the Fazenda takes first position with livestock of about 100 head

of Indo-Zebu cattle and a large mob of horses of about 80 head. For European- and also American-, even for Brazilian conditions, these are not very many. But if one considers that for weeks all this stock had to be driven here with great toil or arrives here only after an arduous train ride and great hardship and that the pastures have to be first wrung from the jungle, then this is quite a large number. - And my work here consists now in the supervision of the stock, the supervision of the agriculture and the workers. An activity which I enjoy greatly and where I can not only already utilise my knowledge but where I can also learn a lot more still.

.....

**Kurt Herrmann** has changed his address: c/o Murray, Simonsen & Co. Ltd., Rio de Janeiro. He is all right and is writing often to Bondy.

.....

England, Canada and Sweden

There is a detailed Letter from **Dr. Ernst G. Loewenthal**, 7 Lyndhurst Road, London N.W.3, which informs you about almost everybody living in England. - He writes:

..... First of all - as usual - I will tell you of our Gross-Breesen people.

.....

**Kaete Emden**, who now frequently comes to see me is doing domestic work (Roden Hotel, 113-5) Hornsey Lane, Highgate, London N.6) is very well, in a good mood, satisfied with everything; for the time being she cannot get away to San Domingo and has to wait until shipping accommodations have been found.

.....

Both **Doernbergs, Stefan Katz, Heinz Kolodzinsky** are in the Isle of Man, Hut 7, Hutchinson Camp, Douglas, I.o.M. They are all in a good state of health and hopeful with regard to their release. I have a good impression of the mood of these four boys. I am glad to state this.

.....

**Mrs. Scheier** had to undergo an operation some months ago, but at the beginning of February I heard from them that she was all right again. They hope the farm (Tingrithfarm as before) will be used as a training farm up to the 1st of October. They have no new plans at the moment.....

Finally a word about ourselves. There is actually no change in our life since I last wrote to you. Both of us have work, earn a living, are independent, have a nice home of our own, and we very well know what it means to be independent.

.....

**Leus** and **Traut** have changed their address. They are living together with Jochen's mother now and are working in a factory: 9, The Dale, Letchworth, Herts.

Leus writes: - Ilse Gasiorowski ist auch wieder frei und bei Ilse Schlesinger in ihrer alten Stelle. Hanna Rosenfeld hat durch Brandbomben einen großen Teil ihrer Sachen verloren. Wir sind gerade dabei festzustellen, was sie am nötigsten braucht und wie wir ihr am besten helfen können.

Leus writes: - Ilse Gasiorowski has also been released and is with **Ilse Schlesinger** at her former position. **Hanna Rosenfeld** has lost a large part of her belongings due to firebombs. We are just trying to establish out what she needs most and how we can best help her.

.....

Die Jungen: **Heinz Jacobsohn, Schwips** und **Otto Weil** sind alle im Pioneer Corps.

The boys: **Heinz Jacobsohn, Schwips** and **Otto Weil** are all in the Pioneer Corps.

.....

**Frau Dr. Blochmann** ist prima. Ich schreibe ziemlich regelmäßig mit ihr. Leider hat es bis jetzt immer noch nicht geklappt sie zu treffen. Unser neuester Plan ist an Pfingsten zu ihr zu fahren. Sie hat mir vor Kurzem auch wieder Geld für unsere Hilfskasse geschickt.

(Mrs.) **Dr. Blochmann** is fantastic. I correspond with her rather regularly. Unfortunately we just have not been able to meet each other so far. Our latest plan is for me to visit her at Pentecost. Recently she has again sent to me money for our relief fund.

.....

**Dr. Löwenthal** hilft uns auch so gut und viel er kann.

**Dr. Loewenthal** also helps us as well and as much as he can.

.....

From a letter of **Ilse Schlesinger** and **Ilse Gasiowski**:

Von hier gibt es immer nur dasselbe zu berichten - Arbeit und noch mal Arbeit. Sie wissen sicherlich, dass seit beinahe drei Monaten Ilse Gas. wieder hier ist und wir uns, - was ja eigentlich selbstverständlich ist - ausgezeichnet vertragen. Vorige Woche hat uns der Jacob besucht in Uniform - noch genau so verrückt wie immer! Im moment ist er damit beschäftigt, ein Buch zu schreiben! Von den restlichen Breesenern hören wir ab und zu, sehen aber niemanden, da wir nie rauskommen. Ich mache jetzt das ganze Maschinenmelken und wir haben schon seit einigen Monaten über 170 gals per day, was bei ca. 50 Kühen nicht schlecht ist. Wie alle anderen versuchen natürlich auch wir, das äußerst mögliche an Ertrag zu erreichen und stehen z.B. jede Nacht um 12 Uhr auf, um die Kuhställe sauber zu machen, da die Kühe über Nacht drin sind, ('n bisschen verrückt ist es ja doch, don't you think so?) - aber man tut halt alles, was von einem verlangt wird und wenn ich meine letzten Weihnachtsferien zu Ostern doch noch bekommen sollte, wird es auch hoffentlich weiter gut gehen!"

There is always the same to report from here - work and still more work, You probably know that since about three moths ago Ilse Gas. is here again and that we get on with each other excellently, which of course after all goes without saying. Last week Jacob visited us, in uniform - still as crazy as ever! At the moment he is occupied in writing a book! From the rest of the Breeseners we hear now and then, but see no one, as we never get out. I am doing now the whole of the machine milking and for some months now we have had over 170 gals. per day, which is not bad from around 50 cows. Like all others, naturally we also try to obtain the utmost possible production and eg we get up every midnight to clean out the sheds, as the cows are inside at night, (it's a bit silly after all, don't you think?) - but one does just everything that one is asked to do and should I get my last Christmas holidays at Easter still, hopefully things will continue to go well.

.....

We had a detailed letter from **Schwips** and **Jacob** the other day in which they wrote us about their being in the Pioneer Corps

.....

**Thea Weissenberg**, 15 Belborough Road, Oxford, is writing frequently.

.....

From Canada we had lately only a letter from **Goetz Weiss**, brother of Rudi. He is working in a factory there and is together with **Hans Herzberg**. Both are well.

.....

**Rudi Weiss**, **Henny Lemlein** and **Ruth Schwarz** wrote that they are having a three months training for settlers which they like very much. However they would prefer to have a change afterwards instead of returning to G.B.

.....

**Baurat** sent us a nice sketch, how to build a brick baking stove for H.F. I am sorry to say that it came too late.

.....

We had the last letter from the **Werkdorp boys** on February 3rd, that they are going on all right. They are waiting for their trip to San Domingo. **Alfred Cohn** hopes to get his American visa. Lately we did not have any letters from these boys.

.....

**Pam:** Paul Schreiber, Tjoernap, Gunnarshemmet, Sweden, writes a long letter. He is a teacher in a settlement for refugee boys. He would like to come over here too. However presently there is no chance for him.

.....

### Kenya

Lately we had letters from **Jochen** and from **Gert Fraenkel**:

**G.G. Fraenkel**, P.O. Kipkabus Kenya Colony.

..... The second year I have spent in this country is nearing its end. We arrived here in Nairobi on March 1st 1939. At first Henry (Knirps) and I went to a coffee farm just outside Nairobi for a short while. Then the Plough Settlement Association had made definite arrangements for us and we were transferred to a mixed farm up-country, with cattle, pigs, pyrethrum, flax and a little grain. We were there well over a year, unpaid. Meanwhile in September we had all met again, Edda, Gert Pflingst, Moesch and Jochen, for a short while in the internment camp in Nairobi. Henry and I were both quite happy on our job; I left there in July this year and Henry a month later. After that I got a good position at Nakuru at shs150/- a month, butter and mealies and two boys free. There were lots of work, pyrethrum, maize, wattle and gumtree plantations, cattle and pigs; the acreage of the pyrethrum alone was 200. There were 150 boys permanently occupied and had to be looked after. I knew what I was doing and I like it but like a fool after 2 months I left that place having got another offer which I thought grand.....

In his present job Gert is not at all satisfied. However it is difficult for him to give it up at present. He is corresponding with Knirps who has a good job as farm manager at Thomson' fall. He is also corresponding with Hermann Pollnow and Jochen. From Jochen he learned a lot of news of you folks. However Gert complains never to get a reply if he writes to you. So do write to him. You all know very well yourself what a letter means to you.

.....

### Australia

We got plenty of letters from there lately. - Here are some of them:

**Fredy Fabian:** Dr. Alfred Fabian, 25 Hutt Street, Adelaide, writes:

..... I have now come to Adelaide where I was appointed First Minister of the Jewish Congregation several weeks ago. Having arrived in Sydney more than 1 1/2 years ago, I was working as a teacher and assistant minister, but without any official appointment and under very modest conditions. Last September I received an invitation to conduct the Holy Day Services in this city which is the capital of South Australia. My application found the approval of an overwhelming majority of the Congregation and I entered upon my new duties on the 5th December last year after having married 4 days before leaving Sydney. You probably remember Miss Sternberg from Br, she was my fiancée for nearly 2 years.....

Greatly delighted I was that through my appointment here in Adelaide I have now the chance of maintaining contact with some of the Breesen boys and girls. Like yourself I was tremendously disappointed about their decision to leave the country. During my first stay here I had many conversations with them about this topic, and I tried to influence them to reconsider their decision.....

.....

**Franz Czollek** and **Marion (Inge) Rosenbaum** are trying very hard to go back to the country as sharefarmers, and I am very glad that my position gives me the possibility of assisting them in their endeavour.

.....

**Fritz Immerwahr** stated his reasons, and I sincerely believe that they are genuine.

From the letter of Fritz: Address: James Warner, 31 South Terrace, Adelaide, S.A.

" ..... After having been here (Adelaide) for a while I got to know an actor who later managed to get me a part in Clifford Odet's play "Till the day I die", I had quite a nice write up in the "Advertiser", by the way. Since then I have devoted most of my spare time to learn a stageproof English and to learn acting. I am really satisfied with my present life and have the intention to become a professional actor later on. - Save for my leaving the country there is nothing for you to worry about and I promise that there never will be.

There is an excerpt of a letter from **Mr. Matsdorf** who was helping to receive and to place the Australian group at its arrival in that country.

W.S.Matsdorf, 194 Macquarie Rd., Greystanes via Wentworthville, N.S.W.

..... Under the above address we are running a poultryfarm. the size is 7 acres and at present I have about 900 adult and 500 young birds and some few ducks. Besides the poultry I run a vegetable garden but only as much as is important for ourselves and the green food for the poultry; then we have some cows, and as I manage the place alone with my wife you will realize that we have a lot to do. But I can assure you that we feel really happy out here (about 30 miles from Sydney). And my little boy who is now 4 1/2 years old loves the farm life so that he doesn't want to live somewhere else. Unfortunately he is at present in hospital with scarlet fever and as that just occurred some few days ago after my father in law passed away here some weeks ago you can imagine that we are pretty down-hearted. But altogether I must say that my wife and I would never have thought before that we feel so homely on the land, I think as a newcomer to this country you feel much more attached to it than living in the city. And there is another point too, after having told so many people to go on the land it is for me a satisfaction to be a farmer now myself. I don't dare say that I have built up a model farm within 3 months but I was very proud when the Governmental Poultry Expert who comes to my farm regularly said last week to us that my flock are in a very good condition and look well looked after. And last not least I suppose after having become a farmer myself the friends from Gross-Breesen regard me or look to me as one of them and that would give me great satisfaction too. For after all it is not only doing the daily routine work on the place. You know as well as I do there is always something else behind the manual work and one of these days I will hang my Dr.-Diploma in my food sheds and tell the cats in there that these last years have changed me a lot. Another time, if more time has passed of my farm work and I can overlook more time and work spent at my farm I will describe you more details of my actual work (would it not be possible to get an exchange of ideas about farming in the various countries through the Circular letters?) There was one highlight during the last few weeks when one Sunday the first Gross-Breesener came to my farm. He was very glad to see it as he said and when each of us milked one of the cows I would only have wished you could have seen that. - Your boys have done all right here. They have built up a reputation for high class good farm work. Example: when Chelsea Park the Training Farm of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society had no trainees any more because of the lack of immigrants they tried to put it on a commercial base to make it a profitable farm. To get applications for most efficient farm hands out of the number of former Chelsea Park trainees they wrote to 5 former trainees of which 4 were Gross-Br's and I am pleased to say that they selected 2 Gross-Br's who are now working there. I don't want to say that that means too much for the future of the boys concerned but it proves that in Sydney and at Chelsea Park a Gross-Breesen boy is a good farm worker and that means a lot, doesn't it?

..... Apart from Pikarski who is a good and industrious boy and all right in every regard I met Rudi Auerbach who was on my previous place several times. Some days ago I heard that Hans Cohn is much better now and that there are all prospects that he becomes entirely all right again.

.....  
 Recently we had letters from:

**Rudi Auerbach**, c/o Mr. R. Luke. Penrose N.S.W.: - He is working on an orchard and poultry farm presently, and he likes this sort of farming particularly.

**Werner Pikarski**, "Sommerfields". Birriwa, N.S.W.: He writes that he feels extremely well on this wheat and sheep station where he is working.

**Herco**, Herbert Cohn, c/o Mrs. S.E.Dun, Hillside Forster N.S.W.: He is working on a dairyfarm. He writes: ..... I am here nearly two years and I can say that these two years were about the most interesting and valuable years of my life so far.....

The boys of Chelsea Farm: Chelsea Park Farm, Baulkham Hills, N.S.W., have sent quite a lot of letters recently. I may mention that **Erich** and **Bosi** tried to send some of their weekly salary to the boys in H.F. who did not earn any money. Here are some lines of their letters:

**Bosi** writes: ..... I suppose you know already a lot about Chelsea Farm to-day to that one year ago.

Now it is our job to keep the farm and - if possible - to make it to a paying position..... I can't tell you how happy I am. It is wonderful to work without boss. We are doing any work, I mean "we" Erich and me.

.....

**Wachsi:** There are 4 of us here now: Bosi, Erich Bacharach, (Baker) and Spitz came together with me. - Chelsea Park is about 40 acres or so. They have a lot of fowls, but unfortunately we have nothing to do with them. There are also 4 cows and a heifer. Two of us milk them, but the dairy boss separates and washed up. Besides that are about twenty or thirty pure-bred pigs here. And the garden! Bosi and Eric have put out a land of tomatoes, and they are really a credit to them. Besides that they have other sorts of vegetables, as there are beans, lettuce, peas, cabbage etc. But the soil here is terribly poor. Anyway, it is nice to do everything yourself, you learn more that way.....

.....

And **Herbert Born:** I am working at Chelsea Park for more than a week now. I like it very much out here. The work is not very hard here. I always think I am on holidays. Where I worked before I had a lot more work and I think sometimes a bit too much. I am very happy that we are four boys together now working on the same farm. When are your next holidays, Mr Bondy?? I think it would be very nice if you come for some weeks to Australia. Isn't that a good idea?? Australia is such a nice country, I am sure you will like it here. I think you could stay at Ch.P. they won't charge you anything. Think it over, you might be able to come.....

.....

And last we give you the address of **Rudi Strauss:** No. 40773, No.7. Camp, Hut 20, Eastern Command, N.S.W., c/o District Censor, 45 Reservoir Street, Sydney Australia. - Mr. Loewenthal who has visited Rudi's father gave it to us.

.....

Just to-day we had a long letter from **Leo Schifftan**, Yarrambat, P.O., Victoria, Australia, who has settled down now on his own farm, and there are some parts of his letter:

..... Wie Sie schon oben am Brief festgestellt haben werden, habe ich wieder mal meine Adresse gewechselt. Ich hoffe, es ist zum letzten Mal für lange Zeit, denn dieses Leben, in dem man von einem Platz zum andern geworfen wird und nirgends ein Heim hat, gefällt mir absolut nicht. Ich bin immer noch in Australien und immer noch auf einer Farm. Jetzt sozusagen auf meiner eigenen. Am 15. Februar kam ich hier allein raus. Ich habe 18 Meilen von Melbourne mit der Unterstützung meines Onkels in Melbourne eine Farm von 40 acres gepachtet, da wir ja nicht mehr kaufen dürfen. Diese 40 acres sind nicht etwa bestes Grassland, sondern Land, auf dem man, wenn man einigermaßen gute Regenfälle hat, gute Kulturen anbauen kann. Von lebendem Inventar habe ich im Moment 10 Kühe, 3 Pferde (zwei gute Arbeitspferde und ein Pony zum Reiten und für den Wagen, der unser einziges Verkehrsmittel sein wird), etwa 250 Hühner, 3 Kälber, 3 Hunde und 3 Katzen. Gestern habe ich 15 Enten erwartet, die ich am vorigen Sonntag gekauft habe, sie sind aber noch nicht hier eingetroffen. In der nächsten Woche werde ich wahrscheinlich 4 weitere Stück Jungvieh herbekommen, die mir gehören, aber auf einer anderen Farm weiden. Maschinen und Geräte habe ich nicht viel: Einen 2 Schar Diskpflug, einen Satz Eggen, 1 Häckselschneider, 1 Separator. Das sind so die wichtigsten Dinge. Im Moment haben wir eine sehr trockene Zeit und nicht genügend Futter draußen, sodass wir die Kühe ziemlich kräftig im Stall beim Melken zu füttern haben. - Da hätte ich bald vergessen, über unsere Gebäude zu schreiben: Ein kleines aber nettes und sauberes Haus mit 3 Zimmern, Küche und Badezimmer, selbstverständlich Veranda, ein Waschhaus, einen schönen Kuhstall für sieben Kühe, einen Pferdestall für 2 Pferde, Hühnerställe für etwa 500 Hühner einen Raum zum Zentrifugieren und einen Schweinestall, in dem ich jetzt nur 3 Schweine habe, da ich gerade gestern eins verkauft habe.

Als ich hier allein ankam, gab es natürlich mehr als genug Arbeit, da ich alles allein zu machen hatte. Angefangen vom Kochen und Melken, zum Füttern der Tiere, Sauberhalten des Hauses und der anderen Gebäude, bis zur Feldarbeit, zu der ich nicht sehr viel gekommen bin, trotz dem ich um 1/2 6 morgens aufstand und mein Abendessen selten vor 1/2 10 abends hatte. Ich habe nur auf ein kleines Feld, das schon mal gepflügt war Hafersaat gestreut und diese eingepflügt (jetzt kommt sie schon auf), und etwa 2-3 acres gepflügt. Nachdem ich eine Woche hier war, habe ich mich entschlossen, einen unserer Jungen herkommen zu lassen, damit hier mehr Arbeit getan werden kann und damit wir die Nähe der Stadt besser ausnutzen können, indem wir unsere Produkte selbst hinbringen können. Ich schrieb an **Klaus Gas.** und nachdem ich drei Wochen allein hier war, kam Klaus an. Jetzt habe

ich es natürlich wesentlich leichter und es ist auch etwas gemütlicher, wenn wir zwei zusammen sind. Über die Rentabilität dieser Farm kann ich heute natürlich noch nichts sagen, sondern es dauert einige Zeit, bis die Sache so eingelaufen ist, wie ich es mir gedacht habe. Wir werden erst jetzt anfangen können, unsere Erzeugnisse selbst nach Melbourne zu bringen, wir werden anfangen Weiskäse zu machen, unsere Eier selbst verkaufen und etwas Butter machen. Wir sind dabei mehr Land umzupflügen, um so bald wie möglich mehr Futter anzubauen, um uns für das nächste Jahr eine bessere Futtergrundlage zu schaffen, als wir sie jetzt haben. Wir haben überhaupt eine Menge Arbeit im Moment, um alles sauber in den Zustand zu bekommen, in dem wir es haben möchten. - Das ist so alles was ich Ihnen heute schon über diese Farm schreiben kann.

..... As you might have detected by my address, I have once again changed my abode. I hope that it will be the last time for a long period, for I do not like at all this life, in which one is thrown from one place to another and has no home anywhere. I am still in Australia and still at a farm. Now, as it were, on my own one. On February 15th I arrived out here alone. With the support of my uncle in Melbourne, I have leased a farm of about 40 acres, 18 miles from Melbourne, as anyhow, we are not permitted to purchase. These 40 acres are not the best grassland, but land, provided one obtains sufficient rain, on which one can grow good crops. Of life stock I have at the moment 10 cows, 3 horses (two for work and one to ride or for the cart, which is going to be our only means of transport), about 250 fowls, 3 calves, 3 dogs and 3 cats. Yesterday I expected to receive 15 ducks, which I had purchased on the previous Sunday, but they have not arrived here yet. During the next week I expect a further 4 heifers, which are mine, but are presently grazing on another farm. I have not many machines and implements. One 2-share disc plough, one set of harrows, one chaff cutter, one separator. These are about the most important things. At the moment we have a drought and not enough feed outside, so that during milking-time the cows have to be fed fairly hefty in the shed. - Well, I had nearly forgotten to write about our buildings. A small, but nice and clean house of 3 rooms, kitchen and bathroom, of course veranda and a laundry. An excellent cowshed for seven cows, a horse stable for 2 horses, fowl-houses for about 500 birds, a room to separate the milk and a pigsty, in which I have only 3 pigs at present, as I have just sold one yesterday.

When I arrived here on my own, there was of course more than enough work, since I had to do everything myself. Beginning with the cooking and milking to the feeding of the animals, cleaning of the house and the other buildings to the field-work, much of which I was not able to do, despite getting up at 5.30 in the morning and rarely having my evening meal before 9.30 at night. I only sowed a small field, which had already been ploughed with oats and have ploughed it in (it is already coming up) and have ploughed about another 2-3 acres. After I had been here for one week I decided to have one of our boys here, so that more work could be accomplished and we could also better utilise the closeness to the city, by taking our produce there ourselves. I wrote to Klaus Gasiorowski and after having been here on my own for three weeks he arrived here. Now of course it is substantially easier for me and it is also a little more genial when the two of us are together. Naturally, I cannot say anything yet about the profitability of this farm, as it will take some time until it develops to the stage, which I have in mind. We will only now be able to begin taking our produce to Melbourne, we will start to make cottage cheese, to sell our eggs ourselves and to make some butter. We are in the course of ploughing up more land in order to grow as soon as possible more feed and to establish for ourselves a better basis for the supply of feed than we have now. We have really a large amount of work at present to get everything orderly into the state, which we would like to achieve. - That is about all I can already tell you about this farm today.

.....  
 April, 29, 1941

The day before yesterday the manuscript of the circular letter was sent to Ruth and she will write the stencils. In the meantime I got some more letters and I want to give you a brief summary of them.

To-day a long letter from **Jochen** arrived (J.Feingold, Mbogo Vale Estate, P.O. Songhor, Kenya Colony) of March 16. - He puts the following question: "Have the ideals of the people in H.F. very much changed since we parted in G.B.? Or clearer, if all the real Gross-Breesener would meet now, would we find that our outlooks and views our ideas and aims have very much changed since we have left G.B.?" - And his own answer: "What is the consequence of the realisation that the Jewish Problem is only part of a bigger and more important world problem-social, economic and spiritual..... It means for me, together with the knowledge that there are new movements growing, that there is still hope for a better world - a world not only fit for heroes but for everyone - that there are everywhere peo-

ple to live a free and sensible life - that the longing for "ein bewußtes, freies, sinnvolles Leben<sup>3</sup> ist mehr als ein Jugendtraum und dass, wenn ich wieder die Gelegenheit bekomme, ich alles einsetzen werde, um bei diesem Bau zu helfen."

.....

The next letter I opened was from **Haka**. You will know that he is now working at Hyde Farmlands as an employee of Mr. Franken. He is all right and satisfied with his work. Some days ago he saw in the movies "Men of Boy's Town". He writes detailed concerning the question whether only the agricultural work will satisfy him. It is his strong wish to have some other work which will give him more personal satisfaction as i.e. social or educational work besides his farm work.

These are the questions which are discussed in a lot of letters I got in the last months: how is it possible to lead a senseful life in a chaotic world? The further question: is the personal attitude which we acknowledged in Gross-Breesen as the right one, is this attitude also the right one for our life in the world? How can we maintain it? Please, think these questions over and write to me about them. I will try - if possible - to give a report of your answers and I will let you know my opinion in the next circular letter.

.....

**Otto Wallhausen** wrote a letter from Canada (667 Group 11, Internment Camp "B", Base Army Post Office, Ottawa). He hopes to be able to come to this country soon. "With best regards to all".

**Wilhelm Strauss** reports that he has been on a 1100 acres farm on the ocean for one month. He and a boy from Palestine are in charge of the 50 milking cows.

**Toepper, Prinz** and **Meui** sent a card from New York. Meui arrived from Holland a short time ago.

**Fritz Schlesinger** wrote on the 29th of March (Onehan Internment Camp, House 11, Isle of Man): he was moved to another camp. "My health is in a normal state, but I think next time I write to you I'll be released and feel better then." Up to now he doesn't know what will happen to him later on.

.....

I am just reading a letter from **Marianne**:..... Ich hatte diese Woche Post von **Stefan Katz**..... Er hofft bald entlassen zu werden und ist im Augenblick mit **Erwin** und **Micky** zusammen auf der Isle of Man. Sein Viscount hat ihn als assistant manager für eine seiner estates angefordert. Adresse: Upton Estate, Baubury, Warwickshire. I hope Stef, you will be already released when you will get this letter.

..... This week I had mail from **Stefan Katz**..... He hopes to be released soon and at present is on the Isle of Man together with **Erwin** and **Micky**. His Viscount has applied for him as assistant manager on one of his estates. ....

.....

May 1st

**Heinz Kellermann** has a new child (he is already some months old), a new house and a new job - scientific work with the Welfare Council of New York City. His new address is: 222 Stuart Road, Valley Stream.

.....

**Dackel** has a new job since yesterday. The last one was only temporary. (c/o Miss Ellen M Ehret, Spring Valley, Bucks County, Pa.)

.....

My nephew Franz Zadik wrote from England that he was together with **Stefan** for nine months in different camps in England and Canada and he supposes Stefan will be released in April.

.....

---

<sup>3</sup> A conscious, free and meaningful life is more than a dream of youth and that, if I again get the opportunity, I will commit myself entirely in assisting this development.

**Wachsi**, (Gerhard Wachsmann, c/o Mr. Mandl, Wildes Meadow, via Moss Vale N.S.W., Australia) wrote on:

March 29

From my address you will see that I am no longer in Chelsea Park Farm. Mr. Bradford called us all together in his office and told us that one of us would have to go away. The chap who was working for Mr. Mandl had broken his legs..... So we tossed a coin and I was the lucky-unlucky one..... Originally it was intended that I should stay here only until the other boy is allright again. But after a week the boss asked me whether I would like to stay here further on. I would get a piece of ground on share besides my wages. The people are very nice and the food is very good. But it is Vienna cooking and I think it is a bit too heavy for this country. Since a few days, Erich is working for a neighbour of ours. Bosi will probably be going up to Cowra and work for our first boss, Blumenthal. And Erich told me that Spitz might come up to this place too. The boss is also a refugee, from Mannheim. So you see, we are nearly all together again. It is the same district here as Jonny and family, and he came to see me one day. I also spoke to Hermann P. one day in Moss Vale, the nearest town..... Yesterday Eric told me that Hans Cohn was a bit better. I hope he will be allright again some time.

.....

**Doctorin** sent a letter from **Ernst Cramer**. He describes his work, but as it is only his first impression we will bring another report from him in our next circular letter. I only want to tell you that he and **Trudi** who is working on the same farm like their jobs. Doctorin also sent **Sobotker's** present address: General Delivery, Miami, Florida.

.....

A letter from **Leus** of April 14. arrived. She and Traut have now a full time job in a factory where they only worked half day before. They are still living at 1, Hillbrow, Letchworth, Herts. At Easter both hitch-hiked to the bombed Coventry to see Leus' parents. - Von den internierten Jungens haben wir Post. Es geht ihnen allen nicht schlecht, nur kommt die Entlassung nicht.

..... We have mail from the interned boys. None of them is badly off, only the release has not taken place yet.

.....

May 2.

**Lu** wrote she is much better and hoping to be able to work again soon. She met someone from Avigdor who told her that Felix is engaged. Wastls are getting on well. It is a long time since we heard from them.

.....

**Thea Weissenberg** has a new job (1,Davenant Rd., Oxford, England). She is trying to get a job as auxiliary nurse.

**Broetchen:** I am a soldier of the United States Army now. It is nice up here and I like it very much. Address: Pvt. Hans Heilbrun, Btry-4thBN. Bld. 526 Fort Eustis,

.....

May 8.

**Ruth** wrote to-day that she has finished writing the circular letter. So I have to stop this supplement. For the last days I did not have time enough to continue this report, but not so important letters arrived. So I will only tell you about our Virginia meeting. On Saturday night, we had a meeting of the Virginia-H.F'er at the home of Dr. Fischer. We are invited by the Fischers to meet there every first Saturday night of each month. With the exception of Ernest Cramer and Paul Hirsch, who could not come and the Doctorin who was here a week before, all H.F.People were there: Henry, Rolf, Otto, Klaus, Isi, Trudi, Rollaff, Hermann, Rudi, Manfred and Broetchen our first soldier, and as guests Meui and Hanna Jacobsohn, Eva's sister. Each of us reported about his new work and life. Yours *Bo*

.....END.....

Baulkham Hills  
Dear Herco,

June 10<sup>th</sup> 1941

It is quite a long time since we haven't heard from each other, but here I am with some news too.

I don't know whether you know anything about the "Jewish settlement in Cowra". I think I told you in my last letter that I will be going to Cowra when all the pigs are gone here. Well, the committee

wants another boy there too. – To be honest I first thought on Wachsi (as you know we are great friends). But I don't think that he will leave his job as he is very happy there. So I thought on you. I mentioned your name to Mr. Bradford, because you told me in your last letter that you had like to change the job. – But please, don't mention to any one that I wrote to you about it. And also, if you don't take the job, don't let Mrs. Dun know before everything is fixed up. – I can't tell you much about the Settlement as I don't know much about it by myself but I send you enclosed the letter from my future boss, which I got some times ago in which you will learn a bit more about Cowra. The wages is 25 sh.

Well that much in hurry. Best regards.

Yours Bosi.

P.S. I can't find the letter I wanted to show you but here is another one.

.....

Baukham Hills

June 16<sup>th</sup> 1941

Dear Herco,

Thank you for your letter from the 13. Inst. which I got to-day. – I told Mr. Bradford again that you are ready to take the job in Cowra and he said the job is certain for you. You can come whenever you like. I am not surprised that Bradford didn't write to you. He is a basted. The only thing he is interested for is his dog. – And now lissen to me.

If you don't hear in the meantime from Mr. Fliece (That's the secretary of the Committee), then write to him and tell him that you heard about the job in Cowra and you would be ready to take it. – But don't let any one know before you heard from the committee. I suppose you will have a lot of trouble with Mr. Lee<sup>4</sup> but don't worry you will get permission. – An other thing is don't tell anybody in Forster that I am behind it. It certainly would make a row there.

Well. And here are a few details.

As a matter of fact it will be a couple of weeks before you will be going to Cowra. Mr. Bradford wants you to come up here first and then you will be going with the pigs to Cowra. I am going as soon as you are coming. But I suppose we will be together for one day here. Unless Mr. Bradford first gives you instructions about the pigs. But I don't think so as he doesn't know anything about it.

Well, so long for to-day. Best regards.

Yours Bosi.

.....

Mooringa

July 7<sup>th</sup> 1941

Dear Herko,

Thanks very much for your letter from 27.6 which I got two days ago. You will be surprised to hear that I am already in Cowra. I left Chelsea Park about a week ago. Werner Pikarski<sup>5</sup> lost his job and so he took my place in. What he is going to do when the pigs are gone I don't know but I don't think that he will be going to Cowra. I won't go in details about the settlement to-day as I still hope that you will be coming. I am certain that they do ~~will~~ want an other boy here. About a fortnight ago came a Settler to here and he is still without a boy. Perhaps you know him. He was in "Schwarzen Faehnlein"<sup>6</sup> and he knows a couple of Breesener too. His name is Schulvater. He doesn't look much like a worker but he seems to be a decent fellow.

Lissen, if you don't get an answer from the company in the meantime then write to Bradford. Did you give your boss the notes?

By the way Franz and Inge<sup>7</sup> are married. Well good luck to you.

yours Bosi.

.....

Windsor Mountain School. Manchester, Vt.

July 11<sup>th</sup> 1941

It was necessary to make an end with Hyde Farmlands, but I hope it was not the end of our projects at all. May be that we have a lot of tasks after war.

So you can imagine that I was highly interested in the project you are writing from. But I did not get the magazine you wrote about. If it is the project to make a jewish settlement please write me detailed about it and if you think it would be wise to contact with Dr. Matzdorff please do so. The situation with me and with some of our boys and girls here and in other parts of the world is so, that they would be prepared to begin such a settlement if they can help and if they are able to realise that what they wished to do. I every case answer as soon as possible. We are really interested in such a project.

Yours B

<sup>4</sup> The Forster policeman

<sup>5</sup> Another Breesener

<sup>6</sup> Jewish Youth Organisation in Germany

<sup>7</sup> Both Breeseners