

OCTOBER 15, 1940: POSTCARD FROM ERNST, SAINT-CYPRIEN CAMP

15.10.1940.
Liebster Minnerl!
Nach 2 Monaten erreicht mich heute
Marianne's Nachricht über dein Befinden
das mich nicht wenig erschreckt hat,
Ich hörte mir wie lieb - gut Harry
zu dir ist was etwas beruhigt.
Jetzt kann ich dir leider in gar keiner
Weise helfen. Aga & Peter sind in Aich-
gers, 35, rue Caumont, frei, gesund
in gut versorgt. Schweizer Freunde sind
Herr Stakgold aus New York helfen ab zu.
Ich bin interniert, hoffe aber mit der Herz-
geschichte auf baldige Freisetzung zu Aga.
Tausche diese Karte mit Mariandl aus,
ich schrieb über auch heute.
Aus Wien hörte ich leider, ebenso von Zürich,
heute das erste Mal - das ist noch so trübe.
Hoffentlich geht es dir nun wieder besser,
was wir vom ganzen Herzen erbeten wollen.
Ich schrieb es heute alles an Aga.
Wie es dich nicht mehr anstrengt, dann
sende handschriftlich uns einige Grüsse.
Für heute gute Genesung und einige
Grüsse in dir 1000 Küsse.
Dein Ernst.

Dearest Minnerl!

Today, after 2 months in transit, Marianne's letter arrived telling me of your situation which was quite troubling.

I only heard how kind and good Harry is to you which is comforting.

Now, sadly, I am unable to be of any help to you. Aga and Peter are in Auch, Gers, at 35 rue Caumont, free, in good health and taken care of. Occasionally, friends in Switzerland and Mr. Stakgold in New York are of help. I am interned but hope that with my heart problems I might soon be allowed to join Aga. Share this postcard with Marianne; I also wrote her today.

I heard from Vienna today, as well as from you for the first time, sadly with bad news. Hopefully you are now better again, something we all wish most heartily for you.

I wrote everything about it to Aga today.

When no longer stressful for you to do so, send us a few handwritten lines.

For now, get well wishes and kindest regards and 1,000 kisses for you.

Your Ernst



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CONTEXT: This postcard from Ernst is to his older sister Hermine (nicknamed Minni) Hofmann. She and her husband, Harry Hofmann, a gentile, survived the war in Innsbruck, Germany (instead of Austria due to the *Anschluss*) as postcard address “ALLEMAGNE” (French for Germany) indicates. On the top right is written “Prisoners of War Mail.” Where Ernst’s name is written on the top left, it is followed by “Central Infirmary,” because Ernst was becoming increasingly ill and was hospitalized. As shown in the text, Ernst was still hoping to be released soon.

Shortly after Ernst wrote the postcard, a severe storm destroyed most of the camp, after which detainees were moved to the Gurs camp, arriving there at the end of October 1940—the same camp that Agnes, Flora, and Peter had escaped from months before.

Letter images and translations provided by Peter Feigl.