

Josef Ewen
Uedersdorf, Post Daun-Land,
(:Eifel:) Bezirk Trier.

Uedersdorf, March 7, 1948

Dear members of the Lorang family,

The unfortunate circumstances we have to endure right now force me to turn in this time of need to people, who did not experience the misery of the wretched war.

Not only did I lose all of my furnishings including clothing and linens, as well as my house built in 1927, which was damaged so badly that it will be hard for me to restore it to the old condition, but through a bomb and 3 direct artillery hits I also lost within a few minutes my entire estate, which I had accumulated through many years of hard work. The worst of it is that we are not able to get anything in our formerly prosperous beautiful country. The few goods, which are being produced, are being retained, because the Mark is so devalued that companies don't want to deliver anything for cash.

For that reason we show a great scarcity of all commodities, like shoes, linens, clothing, etc. By now if you want to get stationery, sewing thread or similar items, you have to give away groceries, flour, butter or eggs by proxy.

Therefore I would be very grateful to you, if you could send me some old pieces of clothing as well as a few bars of soap for our family of five, wife and 3 children, 2 boys of 13 and 15 years and 1 daughter of 23 years of age.

Just a few years ago I lived with my family in very orderly circumstances, but today the circumstances force me to turn with confidence to people, who lived here in the town of Uedersdorf or whose ancestors built my parents' house. It has been 29 years already since at the age of 70 Mr. John Lorang came to his father's homeland and stayed with us for several days. Even today we still have many pictures of your farm, as well as of herds of cattle, which still remind us of the visit of your father.

I hope that this letter will find you in good health and that you will help alleviate the need of Germans who are suffering without fault of their own.

Sincerely,

Josef Ewen and family