

Rivenich, March 7, 1948

Dear Relatives!

I will attempt for the second time to write to you. I mailed you a letter in July of last year, but did not receive an answer. I assume that the letter did not get there. First let me introduce myself to you. Your father John Lorang and my father were cousins. During their big trip in 1910 your dear parents visited us among others and renewed the family ties. From that moment on we corresponded with your parents until your father passed away.

How is your family? I hope they are doing well, which I cannot say about us. The two wars did not pass by us without a trace. My dear husband was killed in action in 1914 during the first war. I was still so young and alone with two small children. However I got through it by working strenuously. My children were growing up and they were everything to me. We worked peacefully until the second war started. My son was drafted and after three years of service he also was killed in action. That was a heavy blow to me; after all I am already 63 years old. My daughter has been married for quite some time and has children ages 4 - 16, 6 boys and 3 girls. We are living in the French Zone where things are very bad. There is nothing here to buy and we are in a state of severe emergency, especially as far as clothing and shoes are concerned. People are talking about many care packages coming to Germany from America; therefore I am turning to your good heart and am asking whether you might have something in your wardrobe you could spare and give to us. It doesn't have to be new, we are unassuming and happy with very little. With such a big group of children as my daughter has, it is impossible to even get the most necessary items. In case it is impossible for you to help us in our situation, we would be very grateful to you if you could give our address to a comfortable, German-friendly family.

I hope that my letter will reach your hands and my whole family and I send our greetings.

Maria Weber, né Orth, widowed

My address:

Rivenich 74

Post Wittlich, Rheinland-Pfalz

Reg. Bez. Trier, Französische Zone

I am also including my sister's address and ask you to please forward it to a German-friendly, comfortable family. Father and mother, 3 girls and 1 son are living at this address. One son was killed in action in Russia.

Familie Josef Junk, Orth.

Rivenich 58

Post Wittlich, Rheinland-Pfalz,

Reg. Bez. Trier, Französische Zone