

Jan. 15, 1965

Berlin

Dearest Daddy

Barker went back to work tonight – at 4 this afternoon until midnight for the next three days and then 24 hrs. off and on the 12-8 shift for three days, 24 off and days 8-5 for three days and 12 hours off and it all starts again. It seems like I got more accomplished after he left today than I had all day for several days combined. We are always going to the commissary for milk or something because we don't have a refrigerator so things won't keep. We were lucky and I do mean lucky yesterday and made arrangements to buy an American made Coldspot refrigerator from a woman who has been here since 1950 working as sort of an American welfare worker in giving out surplus food to the Germans. The frig. cost us \$50 which cut us a bit short for a few weeks, but is well worth that and more. It includes the transformer? and they are \$15.50 alone so we were very lucky. It is about the size of the frig. Lois has and it has a large freezer across the top so we can shop for 2 weeks meat at a time. I guess the old gal didn't know the going rate and stuff because we were offered \$75 for it last night when we told another couple about it. You pay \$100 and up for used German refrigerators and that is the small one – about 6 cubic feet – we have seen a couple advertised for that, but there was very few even for sale except down town. We also arranged to buy a radio-Grundig (SP?) - from the same woman for \$20 with a table for it – we will get it the 15<sup>th</sup> day of next month because we can't afford both the frig. and radio out of one check and the first is the rent.

We finally got this place warmed up and Barker has finally learned to build a fire now, so maybe it wasn't too bad. It was so filthy dirty that it about made me sick, but I have about got it under control now. I still have to get Barker to take this dirty nasty rug off the living room floor for me. I would rather have the bright red linoleum (SP?) than the awful rug. The bathroom floor is bare cement – not very pretty, clean nor warm, but it will have to do for a while. We had to buy all the floor coverings from the last tenants when we rented this place and when we move I will tear up and ? the linoleum rather than give it away. - I hate the way they take advantage of the “rich Americans” over here. - At least we have a decent landlady – she minds her business and we mind ours. Some people were over last night and said their landlady wanted them to get her coffee and things from the commissary and they did a time or two and then told her no they couldn't because they could get in trouble so she asked them to move – she can't make them move until they find another place and so they aren't worried. But any way she charges them 80 ? for each bath they

take – they have no bath tub – they have to use hers – so she knows when they bathe because they have to give her 24 hrs notice if they want to bathe, so I guess we could have it worse. I am almost used to having to carry dish water from the bathroom to the kitchen now too. Tonight I would have liked to bathe, but the fire was out in the water heater and I haven't learned to start a fire with this coal stuff we use. It is about the size of an egg and the same shape and is pressed coal I am told. It is made in east Germany I guess, but it takes a special knack to get a fire going with it. We are using the wood that Hammond Van Lines of Moscow, built boxes, our crates around our boxes of stuff for shipping for kindling – so it comes in real handy.

We have been so busy but I have had plenty of time to get lonesome and homesick. It is funny – I wanted us to get stationed in Germany so bad for a couple of ... years before we made it, but now I am ready to come home and never leave Idaho again. I never realized what it would be like to be the only ones for blocks that speak English and to not be able to understand anyone or to even read the street signs. To have all the things we take for granted there – or if they are there they are inaccessible because no one, but no one understands English. Everyone tells me I will get used to it and I hope they are right, but right now I am so homesick I don't know what to do. And I miss you so much Daddy – and so does Katrina – she talks about you and the ranch and what she did there all the time.

Things in the PX and Commissary are so expensive. The Commissary in Texas had much lower prices and a better store all around than they have here. We had been told that everything was cheaper here, but that sure isn't the case with every day things. The China, dishes, silverwares, and that sort of thing is, but with everything else so high we will never get any of those things. I was going to get Joey some pants today because I have to wash at Temple-haf and not driving and the laws that I can wash are so restricted that I almost have to wait until Barker is on his break (days off) to wash and that is 9 days in between and his clothes won't last 9 days – Katherine has enough so hers will, except for sox. But anyway, the cheapest pants they had for Joey were \$2.75 a pair so needless to say I didn't get any, and they were cheap quality. We decided it would be cheaper to send Lois the money and have her get him some things at the store and save money even after we paid the postage. - Do you think she would do it for us? - This stupid PX doesn't have kids clothes at all. It has a lovely fur shop, a Rosenthal China shop, Lovely women's sweaters very reasonably priced but what few kids clothes they have are sky high. I guess they have some better PX's out in the Zone, but who can go to the Zone when even they want to. I would love to go back to the PX in Frankfort and

shop, but it will be six months or more before we can afford to do that or have the time off and have the kids over colds that they are bound to have.

Both Katrina and Joey have colds – and not just a slight cold, but nasty coughing, nose runny, I want mommy at 3am type colds. Poor Joey he was so sick last night and Katrina has been listless and cried ever since we got here. She was really sick for a few days and still has an awful cold and cough. Barker got some cough syrup at the hospital for her, but it didn't seem to do a thing so today he got a "bottle" and I made some of Dr. Weston's brew out of lemon juice, honey and whiskey for them and they seem to be resting better and coughing less tonight than they have since we got here.

We were so sorry and shocked to hear of Uncle Barney's death. I tried to get a card today to send to Bea, but they didn't have any sympathy cards what so ever, so will try at Tempelhof and if none there just write her a note.

By the way Barker got the JFK half dollar. Thought he had thanked you for it, but he is forgetful at times. But he does appreciate it really.

It sounds as if you are really having winter in Genesee. We have no snow and although it feels very cold for me the temperature isn't all that low. It has rained nearly every day since we got here but has been freezing at night I guess. Barker took our company home last night and he said it was really slick – I guess those cobble stones can get that way.

Oh Daddy please forgive me for being so inconsiderate and not writing when I first arrived. I do love you so much and miss you too. I promise I will be better from now on and will write at least once or twice a week. With Barker back at work now I seem to have more time. The first few days we were here were so hectic and we ate supper at the NCO Club nearly every night from Friday until Tuesday because of the mess around here and when we got home and the kids to bed I was so beat I just dropped. I am still not in the swing of cooking and won't be until Barker can get a truck and go after our refrigerator and I manage to figure out the (Cent?) aged thermometer on the oven so I can bake. All my recipes call for so many degrees F and I can't figure at all what it would be in C. I guess time will tell on that one too. (*note added: beer at the Cent we line makes me drunk*)

Well, I was going to go to bed early and here it is 11:45 so I will say Good night for now. --I just went in to answer Katrina's call – she wanted a drink – but anyway when I covered her up she cuddled down with the white bear you gave her for her birthday. She just loves it. More in a few days – I promise. We all love you.

Love Rita

Jan, 15, 1965

B gelin

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Coldspot refrigerator from a  
woman who has been here  
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worth that and more. It  
includes the beansprayer  
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It is about the size of  
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~~to~~ She just looks it. -

More in a few days -  
I promise. - We'll love  
you.

Love ~~Pat~~

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

Western AF19628982  
6912 Soly Sgen Box 413  
APO New York 09611



NAVY & AIR FORCE  
18  
JAN  
1965  
09611

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. H. M. Loring 14510 - Albi St.  
~~Box 146~~ Opportunity, Wash. 99216  
~~Genese, Idaho~~



Barker (Milton) and Rita Lorang Weston, Katrina and Joseph. 1964