

A copy
excuse
screen

30/5/1933

My dear Meyer

I hope to sit down now & write to you
one long common letter, dwelling upon mainly upon the
latest events of my adventure, which are no less
interesting in their own way as their predecessors. — I
shall see how far I shall get to. I know that if I
shall not write today then I shall hardly ever
get another chance again. From the 1/11/33 we commence
work on the basis of a stopless week, i.e. work without
a stop day night, similar to that I had at peak times
in the Ukraine.

It takes me far less time to fix myself
up in Moscow than hitherto. I know how to get about
things & went ~~for things~~ in a straight forward way
undoubtedly to the goal.

At the moment I have my quarters
in the late "Volga" Hotel, the leading hotel in
Kiev, where in the olden days was held the
world famous "Nagovorod Fair". In general, all
the buildings connected with this fair have been
handed over to the new Mostobrest. — a very big orga-
nisation here, one that has on the 1st of May 1933
opened the new famous bridge over the Dnipro river.
In these buildings you find now our offices, our
common rooms, all our quarters for single & for
married people, our stables, our "club rooms" &
& so forth — all that which on any other const-
ruction 'one has to build nowadays.

All these buildings including my room
— a fine room, very big with electric light & a
separate entrance — are situated a stone's throw
from the new bridge. The Volga bridge, near
which most of us here are at the moment
engaged is however, some 5 kilometres from

here. We walk this distance & it takes about
50 min, though one could get there by boat. Our
little boat is damaged to one half at present as
petrol - (as you in Africa they use APOF for your
boats content!!)

This arrangement is bad. I have had my
room, so too good to let it go & go away for some
standing - if I can find anything - at the river side
& on the other hand to walk daily there & back
10 miles after a days continuous rowing & I
running about. My job is not pleasant & I
am sure that this will not be left as such
a job & that a change will soon come.
At the moment, up to today I need to get up
at six in order to arrive at 7.30 for the
crossing ferry over the river.

My work will be on the left bank
of the river, i.e. further from the end. Through a
Special UKASE I am appointed 1st Assistant
to the "ПРОРАБ" of all shattering & such work
as control of arches № 5 - № 10 & special design
of technological mechanisms of new carpentry
work, as well as responsible leader of the Good-
the group of the entire bridge! - I have a
respectable amount of work & to some extent
work I have not done before; you quite
know that that is so as I have not built
bridges in Africa of the size of the Volga!
The entire bridge is just a little less
than one mile in length & consists of 2
big steel spans (450 ft long) & 15 ramp concrete.

arches 160 ft long! Very interesting manifold problems, technically intricate. Work is to be quite mechanized. There will be several powerful cranes, derrick cranes, Goliath cranes of several type as well as portal cranes. We must have 400 carpenters alone!

To day there are several features beside technical ones that interest me. For one, we have here a few hundred prisoners undergoing sentence - "zakavorennye" criminals of many kinds, kulaks, thieves & others. I am very interested with these types, their mode of living etc. I visit their quarters, their Holovias, their military escort, and think that the whole system is interesting as such. In a second place, there are stationed here two regiments of the Red Army who work on the earthworks of both banks of the Volga. These soldiers in uniform digging sand, or offloading trucks are very queer, being & working as they do ~~hard~~ ^{led} by ~~hand~~ ^{plac} with Kio-
hans or prisoners!

Between these two categories there is very little difference it seems. The prisoners, an idle & lazy lot, get "skoff" & pay at all. This food is abominable. But so also is the food that the civilian proletarian gets in his Holovia; only he gets a wage but pays for his meal. He pays for that food not less than 2,5 - 3 rouble a day & gets "kha" & "kama" without a sign of fat or meat & earns 4 roubles, or 5 if he is snuffed & works hard.

Of all these one can envy the Red Army man, who tho' he gets merely a few kopecks a day gets fed well. He gets meat & bread & a bit of fat & a bit of sugar. He is held in

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To day there are several features beside technical ones that interest me. For one, we have here a few hundred prisoners undergoing sentence - "zakazenniki" criminals of many kinds, kulaks, thieves & others. I am very interested with these types, their mode of living etc. I visit their quarters, their Solovias, their military escort, and think that the whole system is interesting as such. In a second place, there are stationed here two regiments of the Red Army who work on the earthworks of both banks of the Volga. These soldiers in uniform digging sand, or offloading trucks are very queer, being & working as they do ~~fed~~ ^{fed} by ~~hand~~ ^{plac} with kichens or prisoners!

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The food problem here is worse

Material for Station Buildings at Terminal Sh. Nkhwaleni (1)

Quantity	Description	Remarks.
✓ 26,000	Building Bricks of which 13,000 facings	
220	Bags Cement.	
60	Yds. 1½" Concrete Stone	
30	" " Sand	
30	" Building or Plaster Sand.	
✓ 2	Rolls Roh. Roofing	Lamp. houses
✓ 14	9" x 6" Corbels Patent Galv Air Bricks	
✓ 8	12" x 9" Plaster Bricks	
✓ 1	bw. 1½" Galv. Hoop Iron	
✓ 300	Crimped Wall Ties	
✓ 10	12' x 4½" x 3" Deal Rough.	Wall & sleeper Plates.
✓ 10	13' x 4½" x 3" " "	" " "
✓ 8	14' x 4½" x 3" " "	" " "
✓ 1	15' x 4½" x 3" " "	" " "
✓ 13	15' x 6" x 1½" Douglas Fir Rough.	Tie Beams
✓ 16 26	17' x 6" x 1½" " "	Rafters.
✓ 18	18' x 6" x 1½" " "	" Collar Ties & Struts
✓ 10	17' x 6" x 3" Deal Rough.	" Rafters.
✓ 32	15' x 2" x 3" " "	Purlins
✓ 32	15' x 2" x 3" " Planed.	" "
✓ 4	15' x 6" x 1½" Douglas Fir (Rough)	Ridge
✓ 7	9' x 4" x 4" Pitch Pine Planed.	Verandah Posts.
✓ 4	15' x 6" x 4" " " "	" Plate
10	15' x 4½" x 3" Deal Planed.	" Brackets
✓ 8	15' x 9" x 1½" Lascia	
✓ 4	17' x 9" x 1½" " "	Barge Board
✓ 2	13' x 9" x 1½" " "	" "
✓ 1	14' x 9" x 1½" " "	" "
✓ 3	15' x 6" x 1½" Douglas Fir Rough.	Low. Rafters
✓ 3	14' x 1" x 1½" " "	" "

Quantity	Description	Remarks.
✓ 26,000	Building Bricks of which 13,000 facings	
220	Bags Cement.	
60	yds. 1½" Concrete Stone	
30	" " Sand	
30	" Building or Plaster Sand.	
✓ 2	Rolls Roh. Roofing	Lamp. house
✓ 14	9" x 6" Corvells Patent Galv Air Bricks	
✓ 8	12" x 9" Plaster Vents	
✓ 1	bw. 1½" Galv. Hoop Iron	
✓ 300	Crimped Wall Ties	
✓ 10	12' x 4½" x 3" Deal Rough.	Wall & sleeper Plates.
✓ 10	13' x 4½" x 3" " "	" " "
✓ 8	14' x 4½" x 3" " "	" " "
✓ 1	15' x 4½" x 3" " "	" " "
✓ 13	15' x 6" x 1½" Douglas Fir Rough.	Tie Beams
✓ 16 26	17' x 6" x 1½" " "	Rafters.
✓ 18	18' x 6" x 1½" " "	" collar ties & struts
✓ 10	17' x 6" x 3" Deal Rough.	" Rafters.
✓ 32	15' x 2" x 3" " "	Purlins
✓ 32	15' x 2" x 3" " Planed.	"
✓ 4	15' x 6" x 1½" Douglas Fir (Rough)	Ridge
✓ 7	9' x 4" x 4" Pitch Pine Planed.	Verandah Posts.
✓ 4	15' x 6" x 4" " " "	" Plate
10	15' x 4½" x 3" Deal Planed.	" Brackets
✓ 8	15' x 9" x 1½" Fascia	
✓ 4	17' x 9" x 1½" " "	Barge Board
✓ 2	13' x 9" x 1½" " "	" "
✓ 1	14' x 9" x 1½" " "	" "
✓ 3	15' x 6" x 1½" Douglas Fir Rough.	Low. Rafters
✓ 3	14' x 6" x 1½" " " "	" "
✓ 2	12' x 6" x 1½" " " "	" "
✓ 3	15' x 4½" x 1½" Deal Rough.	ceiling joists

than before in Ukraine. The standard of wages for all trades is lower. Food is given only to the workmen alone; wives & children get nothing at the Stolevases. For the Engineers & Technicians the Stolevases distribute only one meal a day, not three as in Stambza.

My wage here is also lower. 400 rouble a month (against 500 in Novosvetlovka & 550 in Luganskia Stambza.) But I dare not complain for a minute as so far I get wonderful foodstuffs from the foreigners' store at Sormovo 10 miles from here, i.e. temporarily I am attached to "Insnab" & get the bandorful for the foreigners who have entered upon special contracts with the USSR. These are fabulous, I must admit, very unfair to the Russians. I underline temporarily, for Moscow has not given its approval. I am awaiting reply therefrom any day. Today I get, instead of kumys, butter, cheese, rice, sweets, sugar, tea in liberal amounts - the 'very best' that Russia gives anyone.

If they keep me on this Insnab I can live easily on 400 roubles, easier than on 1200 without Insnab. I am keeping quiet & am waiting for results.

Think how unfair to all in! I of all the Mostobrest, 1 of 2000 should get foodstuffs just because I have a foreign passport!!!

I can assure you that to get this Insnab is no easy matter. It fought long. My file is in the hands of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs -

The workmen alone; wives & children get nothing at the Stolecias. For the engineers & technicians the Stolecias distribute only one meal a day, & not three as in Stambza.

My wage here is also lower. 400 rouble a month (against 500 in Novosvetlovka & 550 in Lugaevskia Stambza.) But I dare not complain for a minute as so far I get wonderful foodstuffs from the foreigners' store at Sormovo 10 miles from here, i.e. temporarily I am attached to "Insnab" & get the wonderful fare that foreigners who have entered upon special contracts get in USSR. These are fabulous, I must admit, very unfair to the Russians. I underline temporarily, for Moscow has not given its approval. I am awaiting reply therefrom any day. Today I get, instead of kumys, butter, cheese, rice, sweets, sugar, tea in liberal norms - the 'very best' that Russia gives anyone.

If they keep me on this Insnab I can live easily on 400 roubles, easier than on 1200 without Insnab. I am keeping quiet & am waiting for results.

Think how unfair this is! I of all the Mostobrest, I of 2000 should get foodstuffs just because I have a foreign passport!!!

I can assure you that to get this Insnab is no easy matter. It fought long. My file is thick & my application has the endorsement of the Assistant People's Commissioner of Railroads of Moscow - a big person - & now waits the verdict of the special Government Commission.

Material for P 92 Cottage at Linnal Sh Khwalene (3)

Quantity	Description	Remarks
1	4. M Door 6' 10" x 2' 10" x 1 3/4"	Top Panels Maranese Glass
4	8 M " 6' 8" x 2' 8" x 1 3/4"	Bed Rooms
1	" " " 6' 6" x 2' 6" x 1 1/2"	Pantry
1	Bed & Bath Door 6' 6" x 2' 6" x 1 3/4"	Bath Room
2	" " " 6' 10" x 2' 10" x 1 3/4"	Kitchen & Pack
3	Fanlight 2' 10" x 1' 6" x 1 3/4"	
4	" 2' 8" x 1' 6" x 1 3/4"	
1	No 7 Union Stone complete	
1	6" Porcelain Enamel Bath with plug grid & trap complete	
1	Enthensare sink 15" x 30" with plug grid & lead trap complete	
4	6" Brass Regulating Door Springs	
12	10" x 12" japanned Shelf Brackets	
12	3" Brass Chest Hooks	
24	Brass Cup Hooks	
7	15" Brass Brass fanlight openers	
7	Green endless cord suspends	
7	Brass Lapp Pulleys	
12	Pan 4" Steel Patts	
12	" 3" " "	
2	" 18" Ice Bringes	
1	" 16" " "	
7	" 3" Brass Butts	
7	2" Brass Single Pulleys	
12	3/4" Brass Screw Eyes	
25	yds 8' Thraith wire	
2	lbs 1/2 Blue Tin Tacks	
9	Brass Hat & Coat Hooks	
1	Gate Night Latch with 3 Keys	
11	6" Reversible Rim Locks with Brass Thrown	

Quantity	Description	Remarks
1	4. M Door 6' 10" x 2' 10" x 1 3/4"	Top Panels Maranese Glass
4	8 M " 6' 8" x 2' 8" x 1 3/4"	Bed Rooms
1	" " " 6' 6" x 2' 6" x 1 1/2"	Pantry
1	Bed & Bath Door 6' 6" x 2' 6" x 1 3/4"	Bath Room
2	" " " 6' 10" x 2' 10" x 1 3/4"	Kitchen & Bath
3	Fanlight 2' 10" x 1' 6" x 1 3/4"	
4	" " 2' 8" x 1' 6" x 1 3/4"	
1	No 7 Union Stone complete	
1	6" Porcelain Enamel Bath with plug grid & trap complete	
1	Enamelware sink 15" x 30" with plug grid & lead trap complete	
4	1" Brass Regulating Door Springs	
12	10" x 12" japanned Shelf Brackets	
12	3" Brass Chest Hooks	
24	Brass Cup Hooks	
7	15" Brass & Brass fanlight openers	
7	Green endless cord suspends	
7	Brass Laff Pulleys	
12	Pair 4" Steel Patts	
12	" 3" " "	
2	" 18" Ice Bringers	
1	" 16" " "	
7	" 3" Brass Butts	
7	2" Brass Single Pulleys	
12	Blk Brass Screw Eyes	
25	yds 4' Phosph Wire	
2	1/2 Blue Tin Tacks	
9	Brass Hat & Coat Hooks	
1	Gate Night Latch with 3 Keys	
11	6" Reversible Rim Locks with Brass Hardware	
2	1000 Gall Tanks S.A.R.H. Specifications	
1	Earthenware Glazing Pot (Puc)	
45	Sheet 8' x 4' x 3/16" Asbestos	

which scrupulously considers each new case from thousand & one aspect. Most of it is applying to me on ground of my wonderful (2000) work, but in reality because some know that when I begin drawing food-stuff herefrom they too may get something. Everyone is interested in cigarettes, tobacco, shirts, buttons etc. (- Cigarettes, by the way, we cannot get today in all. My newspaper just sold out; that's all!

So far I have written all about myself. This is very selfish, I know. I have said nothing about this town, of its old associations with the past.

I'd love to tell you much more of the Engineers here - there are many - of the workmen, of the workers, of politics, but time does not permit.

The Soviet Government is floating a new loan internally in 3,000,000,000 roubles or the campaign is fierce. The plan is carried out already 100% - 120% i.e. every working man & "kolezhan" has subscribed 1-1½ months wage in a year! I subscribed 500 roubles & others even 2 months wages! There is not one man that has been left out. Not one dares refuse!

Gary.

My daer (Beile),

I hope to sit down ~~xxx~~ now and write to you one long common letter, dwelling mainly upon the latest events of my adventure, which are no less interesting in their own way as the predecessors. I shall see how far I shall get to. I know that if I shall not write to-day, then I shall hardly even get another chance again.

From the 1/6/33 we commence work on the basis of a stopless week, i.e. work without a stop day and night, similar to that I had at peak times in the Ukraine.

It took me far less time to fix myself up in Nizhni than hethero. I know how to get about things and went in a straight forward way unhesitatingly to the goal.

At the moment I have my quarters in the late Volga Hotel, the leading hotel in the Kalávino (?), where in the olden days was held the world famous "Novgorod Fair". In general, all the buildings connected with this fair have been handed over to the new Mostro-trest- a very big organization here, one that has on the 1st of May 1933 opened the new famous bridge over the Oka river. In these buildings you find now our offices, our common rooms, all our quarters for single and for married people, our Stolovaia, our "Club Rooms" and so forth,-- all that which on any other construction one has to build nowadays.

All these buildings including my room- a fine room, airy, big, with electric lights and sepearte entrance- are situated a stone's throw from the Oka bridge. The Volga bridge, on which most of us here are at the moment engaged is, however, some 5 kilometers from here, ~~thexxk~~. We walk this distance and it takes about 50 minutes, ~~thexxk~~. Though one could get there by boat, our little boat is damaged and we have ~~xxx~~ at the present no petrol--(and you in Africa buy our AROP to your hearts content !!!!!).

This arrangement is bad. On the one hand my room is too good to let it go and go in for some shanty -- if I can find anything--- at the river side, and on the other hand to walk daily there and back 10 kilometers after a days continious roaming and running about the job is not pleasant. I am sure that this will not be left in such a state, and that a change will soon come.

At the moment, up to-day, I used to get up at six in order to arrive at 7.30. for the crossing ferry over the river.

My work will be on the left bank of the river, i.e. further from the end. Though a special UKAZE I am appointed 1st assistant to the "PRORAB" of all shuttering and arch work and control of arches No 5 -- No 10 and special design of SECTNOLOGICAL (?) mecahnisation of our carpentry work, as well as responsible leader of the GOEDETIC (?) ~~work, xxxxxx, xxxxxx, xxxxxx, xxxxxx~~ group of thr centre bridge !! Quite a responsible amount of work and some ~~xxxx~~ extent work I have not done before ; you quite know that that is so, as I have not built bridges in S Africa of the size of the Volga.

The entire bridge is just a little less than one mile in lenght and consists of 2 big steel spans (450 feet long) and 15 re-inforced concrete arches 160 feet long. Very interesting manifold problems, technically intricate, work is to be ~~xxxx~~ quite ~~xxxxxxx~~ mechanised. There will be several powerful cranes, derrickx cranes, & Golliatt cranes of several types as well as portal cranes. We must have 400 carpenters alone !

To-day there are several features besides technical ones that interest me. For one, we have ~~xx~~ here a few hundred prisoners undergoing sentence -- "ZHAKLIUCHANIE" (?) , criminals of many kinds, kulaks, thieves and others. I am very interested with these types, their mode of living etc. I visit their quarters, their Stolovaias, their military escort, and think that the whole system is interesting as such. In the second place, there are stationed here two regiments of yhe Red Army who work on the earthworks of both banks of the Volga. These soldiers in uniform digging sand or of-loading trucks are very queer, being and working as they do, hand by hand with ~~xxxx~~ covilians or prisoners !

Between these three catagories there is very little difference as it seems. The prisoners, an idle and lazy lot, get skoff and no ~~xxx~~ at all. Their food is abominable. But so also is the paid

that the civilianx free proletarianx gets in his Stolovaia; only he gets a wage but pays for his meals. He pays for that food not less than ~~xx~~ 2.5 to 3 roubles a day and gets "SCHI" and "KASHA" without a sign of fat or meat and earns 4 roubles, or 5 if he is skilled and works hard.

Of all these, one can envy the Red Army man, who though he gets merely a few kopeks a day gets fed well. He gets meat and bread and substantial soups from his field kitchens of old.

The food problem is worse ~~xxxx~~ than before in the Ukraine. The standard of wages for all trades is lower. Food is given only to the workmen alone; wives and children get nothing at ~~xxx~~ the Stolovaia. For the engineers and technicians these Stolovaia distribute only one meal a day, and not three as in Stanitzka.

My wages here are also lower. 400 roubles a month (against 500 in Novosv-tlovka and 550 in Luganskaia Stanitzka). But I do not complain for a minute as so far I get wonderful foodstuffs from the foreigners store at SARMAVO (?) 10 kilometers from here, i.e. temporarily I am attached to "INSNAB" and get the wonderful fare that foreigners who have entered upon special contracts get in the USSR. These are fabulous, I must admit, very unfair to the Russians. I underline temporarily, for Moscow has not given its approval and ~~xxxx~~ am awaiting reply therefrom any day. Today I get unheard of things, butter, cheese, rice, sweets, sugar, tea, on liberal ~~xxxxxx~~ norms-- the very best that Russia gives anyone.

If they keep me on the INSNAB I can live easily on the 400 roubles, easier than on 1200 without INSNAB. I am keeping quiet and am waiting for results.

Think how unfair this all is !!!! If I of all the Mostrest, 1 of 2000 should get foodstuffs just because I have a foreign passport !!!!!.

I can assure you that to get this ~~INSNAB~~ INSNAB(?) is no easy matter. I fought long. My file is thick and hefty and ~~xxxxxx~~ the application has the endorsement of the Assistant People's Commissar of ~~Railways~~ Railroads of Moscow,-- a big honour and now awaits the verdict of the Special Government Commission, which scrupulously considers each new case from thousand and one aspect. Mostrest is applying for me on grounds of my wonderful (????????) work, but in reality because some know that when I begin drawing foodstuffs therefrom, they too, may get something. Everyone is interested in cigarettes, tobacco, shirts, buttons, etc. (-- cigarettes, by the way, one cannot get to-day in all Nizhni-Novgorod !!!!!) Just sold out. That is all. !!

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So far I have written about myself. This is very selfish, I know. I have said nothing about this town, of its old associations with the past.

I'd ~~xxx~~ love to tell you much more of the engineers here, -- there are many--- of the workmen, of the meetings, of the politics, but time does not permit.

The Soviet Government is floating a new loan internally on 3,000,000,000 roubles and the campaign is fierce. The plan is carried out already 100%--120 %, i.e. every working man and "Kolchoznick" has subscribed 1-1½ months wages in the year !!! I subscribed 520 roubles and others even 2 months wages !! There is not one man that has been left out. Not one dare refuse !!!!!.----- Not one !!!!!.

JERRY