

Curkoven

20.10.1938

Dear Bill,

Several days ago I received unexpectedly on a postcard the news from Auguste that you are still alive and living in Australia. Yesterday I received further details <sup>and the papers.</sup> I think it is unnecessary for me to describe the surprise and joy. Mother and I have tried in vain to find out your whereabouts. The mail came back with the remark "cannot be found" or (in the end) from the Consulate in Sydney "Missing". So we did not think you were still alive. In spite of that my heart was telling me: 'Bill is alive and will one day show up somewhere or of these days', as I said to Auguste often and now it came true.

Now, dear brother, I hope will give us in the near future an extensive report about yourself and your life over there. Johnny and Auguste have written to you already so they told me.

Dearest all married. Auguste in Bremen has 1 daughter and 2 granddaughters. Johnny is married in AMUND-HAMMERSBECK and has 2 children, a girl Ingeborg 5 years and a boy of about 2 years. We are all well, have our income, which is the main thing. We are satisfied. I think Johnny went through the hardest school of life. He was unemployed for nearly 6 years, but is working for years now as a tradesman.

with the aircraft factory Fecht - Wolf, and some  
well.

One another named alive anywhere. He spent the last  
years with relatives in his hometown, Dargy and

no friend there too (1919-1920). On father's Decharge  
died 1928 in Rönnebeck. Uncle John had an

accident at the Bremer Vulkan and died in 1917  
I think. John I think says of me he never forgot

Uncle Hans who went to sleep forever quietly  
as he wrote life has been over resting child

are still alive and married. Please look over  
apartment and Knaack of Aunt Hans and

as living there too. My respect for Aunt Hans  
I feel for you much and often found a kind

there. He has set himself a monument in  
every new heart.

Did not, dear Bob, want to tell you a little  
about myself. Was working since I like and

then until 1915 in Bremerhaven. Went to sea  
and tried for one day and therefore passed

the sea fairly well. At least I had plenty to  
eat (which was missing at home) in me not

traveled to to Sweden, Norway, Denmark and  
Holland. After the end of the war I volunteered

to for ~~unimpaired~~ and ~~threw~~ back to sea  
in 1922 where I worked <sup>until 1928</sup> mostly in Norway,

Sweden, Denmark, Erik or Peruvian boat from  
England and did not see Germany in all that time.

Then I came to Bremen with the same first by steam,  
and went to father who had a married  
again in Rönnebeck. He died several weeks later

and I was there to close his eyes. The unemployment grew again, more and more. I battled through as sales man until 1930 and then turned to Cuxhaven and sailed as stoker on fishingboats for the "Nordsee A. G." ~~1932 I got~~ In 1932 I got married in Cuxhaven, father-in-law was mineforeman (?). We talked often about you.

We have a son, too, his name is Egon Hermann, he is 5 years old and starts school on Easter. Since 1934 I am employed with the "Nordsee A. G." on land as a painter and I am quite satisfied, especially that I am away from the sea. We live in the house of my parents-in-law in Döse, Strichweg 169, one house before Villa Ebel. Maybe you remember the area, since you used to live here for two years.

Cuxhaven changed now to its own advantage. A lot of parks and houses have been built. It is very beautiful here in summer. They make a lot of propoganda in the state for healing baths of Cuxhaven.

Well, Bill, that is about the main things in short.

I suppose there is a lot more to tell but I will wait for your answer and wishes to my letter first. We hope that this letter finds you in the best of health and that you give a sign of life soon, if possible an extensive letter. Are you married, do you have children? etc. It looks as though you have a business. How is it going? What does it look like over there, what are land and people doing? etc.

And mostly of all write your address clearly. I could not do other than copy the address off Rehlkes letter to his parents. I hope it reaches its destination.

Thousand regards  
from your sister-in-law Gertrud  
and your nephew Egon  
Your brother Fritz

Address:  
FRITZ BECKROEGE  
STRICHWEG 169  
CUXHAVEN (NORTHSEA)