

J. Earl Willy

Quite unexpected, a few days ago, I got a postcard from Augusta. saying you are still alive and in Australia. Yesterday I got further news from Augusta. I can't tell you how surprised and pleased I was, but I suppose you can imagine what it meant to me. Mother & I did everything possible to find you, but without any success. Either the mail came back with a note: "Addressee's whereabouts unknown" or as last time from the Consulate in Sydney: "Missing" naturally we thought you are not alive any more, although as I often said to Augusta, I felt that you are still alive and one day somehow we will hear from you, and now news from you have come. And now dear brother you will, I hope, write more about your self and your life over there. Young and Augusta tell me that they wrote to you. We are all married Augusta lives in Bremen, has 2 daughters and is grand mother twice. Young is also married and lives in Ammendorf - Hammersbeck. He has 2 children one girl Ingeborg 5 years old and one boy 2 years old. We are all well, we make a living and that is the main thing. We can't make a lot of money here, or we may not be the people to make it, anyhow, we are contented. Young certainly had the hardest time. He was nearly 6 years without work. However he has been working for years now as a tradesman at the Focke-Wulf Aircraft factory and earns good money there. Our mother died. For some years she has been staying with relatives in Danzig and is buried there. Our father Beckrügge died in 1929 in Romebeck. Uncle Johann had an accident on the Pramer-Vulcan and died in 1917. Aunt Laura whom we will never forget died as peacefully as her life was in 1935. All the Rohlfinger children are still alive and married. Klara took Aunt Laura's flat and belongings over and is still

living there. Anyhow I admired and loved Aunt Laura, I always felt at home there. All of us loved her deeply and we will never forget her. Now dear Willy I will write you about my self. Until 1915 I had different occupations, barber, beer carter, milk carter, at last as riveter in Bremerhaven. Then I was a sailor until 1934 During the war I went through a training and worked in iron works so that I got quite well over the war, went to Sweden Norway Denmark and Holland, I got quite enough to eat too. As you know food was very scarce in our country then. After the war I was voluntarily working as mine sweeper and in 1922 started again with the shipping companies and went until 1928 mostly from England on Norwegian Swedish, Danish & Hollandish boats. Until then I never saw Germany. Then by chance I came on a Danish boat to Bremen. I left the boat there and went to see father at Rönnebeck who in the meantime had married again. He died a few weeks after, so that I was just able to close his eyes. At that time the unemployment rose immensely. til 1930 I worked as Com. traveler and after that I was a stoker in a fishing boat of the Nordsee Co. in Cuxhaven. I also married there in 1932 a girl named Hansel. My father in law was over sees with (?) something mine. We very often talked about you. I also have a son named Egon Hermann. He is 5 year old and a rascal. He will go to school at Easter. Since 1934 I have been working as a painter with the „Nordsee“ and I like it, especially that I have settled down and don't have to travel around any more. Westag with my wifes people in Döse Strichweg 169 it is 2 hours before the Villa (it looks like) Gobel. Perhaps you remember the place as you were living here for 2 years. Cuxhaven has improved very much lately. Many new houses and gardens have

been built. It is very nice, specially in summer. Much
propaganda has been done for the Tschicks - Bath.

Well dear Willy that will be all what happened and what I could
write in my first letter. There is of course a lot more to say
but I await a letter from you now about your life. We ~~hope~~
hope you are well and will write every detail about yourself.

Are you married, have you any children etc. It seems that you
have a business. How is it? What is it like there and how
are the people? Don't forget to give us your correct address.

I only got it from Pehlkes letter to his parents. Apparently it
was written by you. I hope this letter will reach you. 1000
kisses from your sister in law Gertrud and your nephew
Egon your brother Erich

Enclosed a few snaps