

1953

January: Dad took Mike + I on a skiing holiday to Igls, near Innsbruck, Austria - stayed Sport Hotel -

On the way back we were stranded at Munich for 24 hours - fog

June: Coronation Festival: Fancy dress parade (Long John Silver). Races

Summer: Family stayed in house on Causeway Street, Portlough for the month of August(?).

Started Rainey Endowed School in 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year.

Played first ever rugby match for U13 XV v. Foyle. (winning)

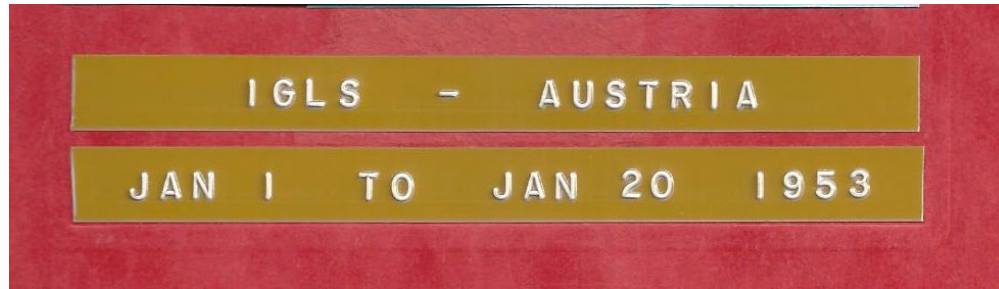
Dad took Mike and I to Motor Show in London in December and collected the Hillman upon return to Belfast.

12th Birthday

# TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

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## IGLS 1953



What follows is my transcription of my father's journal for the January 1953 skiing holiday in Igls, Austria, along with the photographs that my father took during that holiday.

### Thurs. Jan 1

10.00pm on boat: Safely in our bunks - the two boys quite happy reading together in top bunk. Left home after lunch. Shopped with B. and Colin for odds and ends - left ourselves rather too much time: tea in Cotter's Kitchen - to boat at 6.45pm. Saw B. and Colin go rather sadly in car. Boarded "Ulster Prince" - clean ship - good wood - explored. We got a lovely 2-berth cabin just beside Purser's Office - roomy. Washed. Met alot of friends in various lounges. Herby Templeton. Paul Fry who used to play for Collegians - in Air Force uniform - just back from Bulawayo (S.Rhodesia) and now posted to Wolverhampton. Also Terry Brennan, positivelt resplendent in ribbons on Air Force uniform - just back from Far East where he is D.P.M.O.? (based in Singapore) - asking for B.

Saw ship safely out of dock - then went down for another feed. Boys had Club Orange, coffee, toast and Michael "topped off" with a large glass of milk. Up to deck again - saw Bangor and Whitehead - beautiful clear moonlit night - and so to bed - very comfortably - boys just settling down. Missing B. very much.

Memo: Design of wooden ? in dining lounge. Also: Jam holder is by Walker & Hall.

### Fri. Jan 2

Good crossing: once I woke and saw the moonlight silver on the sea - the boys stirring vaguely - I think they found it hot. Wakened with tea at 6.30am: washed, dressed and off in the dark, lamplit streets by bus at 7.30am to Lime Street: duly explored the train - after finding our (good) reserved seats and buying a couple of papers. Train off at 8.10am and went immediately for breakfast. We had a reasonable "plain" breakfast for ?? each - because the bacon and egg course cost 2/- extra and the boys voted against it -especially as there were good rolls and fair coffee. Surly sort of head waiter - but he did himself out of a decent tip by (he thought) cleverly arranging the change out of a one pound note so that it contained nothing less than 2/-.

Weather clear - boys had plenty to look at - so time passed easily till London at 12.20pm. Straight to Southway Hotel (same room as B. and I had) - to snack lunch - Moss Bros. - ice cream - Hambleys - tea at Lyons in Piccadilly - bought fruit for journey - Schoolboys ?? (which was rotten) - News Theatre - baths and bed. Highlight was train department in Hambleys; London rather nice - fountains playing in Trafalgar Square - Eros away to be cleaned. Am dull and miss B. Got everything stacked and in order for the morning.

### Sat. Jan 3

9.45am: Belgium-German border: rather hectic trying to write this on crowded train. Customs officials wandering somewhere - train stopped - snow on lines.

Got off in good time - breakfast in bedroom - met party 8.15am - 24 in all - seem decent - mainly Scottish: Dr. Cromie of Musgrave Pres. Hospital here by himself. Good run to Dover - through customs without bother - crossed to Ostend by "Konig Albert" (ship I crossed bu on Engleberg trip). Explored - had a good lunch - sat on deck and watched Calais. Got cold (snowing) - so went for snooze in lounge. Arrive 3.40pm (Belgian time) - after getting train seats went for coffee and biscuits in station cafe (3/10) - then had about an hour to wander in streets of Ostend - very dilapidated and poor - but small cafes very smart and warm looking with big central stoves. Bought some chocolate and fresh papers - on to train - fairly comfortable run to Brussels, Liege, Verviers.

Dinner at 7.15pm: soup, spaghetti and ham, chicken and potatoes with apple sauce, lemon pancakes (coffee 1/- extra). Boys ate well and enjoyed it.

Have largely frittered away the day talking to people. Two lads know Mildred? Gibson; one man knows Baldy Hewitt - and so on. Lemonade - one bottle gone - well worth bringing (Memo: bring folding cup).

Hear that sleepers don't "come on" till Aachen (at 11.00pm). Must play cards with children.

### Sun. Jan 4

In train at 10.00am: Out of train at Aachen - through courteous passport and currency control - into sleepers: small, comfortable 3-berth sleeper: undressed: boys had biscuits, lemonade and a "ti...."? - off to sleep - did not wake until 9.00am. I got up at 8.00am - then went out to see about dining car - but it has got lost! So breakfast of lemonade, biscuits and a bar of chocolate. One can obtain a cup of coffee from sleeping car attendant - but for 3/6 each!!

All over Europe - snow! Just passed through Augsburg: we stop for one hour at Munich - but stay in sleeper to Kufstein where we change for Innsbruck.

After Munich (12.15pm): Flat snowy plains to Munich - arrived 10.30am: off train (leaving baggage) and found that party had been split up by train having been cut in half at Aachen - too big to start. Munich centre in ruins - a few big new buildings. Changed one pound German money (10.50 marks) and had hot



chocolate (2) and coffee (1) with 2 rolls in 3rd class cafe for 2.30 marks (about 5/-); cups of coffee seem to cost about 1/-, apples, bread, etc. all very dear. Some people went for breakfast in hotel - cost about 30/- !!!

(Forgot: Christopher noticed mole hills in Kent)

Michael dropped top of toothpaste tube - but we found it (with torch) under radiator.

[Carriage inclined to be cold. Heated by little coal stove at end. C. and M. now watching attendant clean it out.]

Walked from station 2 blocks to city centre - but mostly rubble. Trains with trailers: quite nice clothes, etc. in shops - prices not bad (ski boots cost about 5 pounds). Saw snow-sculptured figures. Fair number of uniforms - mainly Americans who are in possession.

**Sport Hotel 10.00pm**

Pleasant journey through mountain barrier - snow shallow but fairly good - foggy - easy customs and passport control - to Kufstein; here changed trains by having carriage attached to back of our train - walking into it - and then get shunted to local train! Arrived Innsbruck about 3.30pm - ou to big bus - up steep road ( about 30 minutes) to Igls - to hotel door.

Before going to room C., M. and I hooked up and got fitted with boots and skis: boots good - C.'s skis excellent - M. and mine fairly good.

Back for tea in cafe bar - wash - dinner (soup, ? veal? and salad, meringue and cream) boys had orange and lemonade (which was very dear - about 12s. and I started a bottle of cheap wine) - upstairs, unpacked and into bed - ? and feeling well. Have been feeling dull and a bit "edgy" so far - missing B. more than I know.

Hotel quite ?? - beautifully appointed - looks distinctly expensive - have to keep off extras - though they seem to have a special cheap price for our party for drinks, etc. Only the boys and I and two others are in the actual hotel - others are up in the annex about 5 minutes away - but apparently very comfortable. So far as I can gather skiing is on the easy side.

[Memo: Sport House sitting in Maria Therese Strasse said to be good for ski-boots, etc.]

Boys have behaved extremely well so far - ate a very good dinner very nicely.

Forgot to say that after tea we went out to the nursery slopes in dark and skied like mad up and down: all did well.

Michael distinctly crestfallen when he saw they had a cot in room for him!! Got it changed to a couch - OK now.

**Mon. Jan 5 in lounge at 10.30pm**

Boys asleep - have written to B. - party have gone off to the local ?? hotel - ?? to drink and dance - so its quiet. Lounge beautiful - soft lighting by standard lamps - small table with gaily coloured ash trays: table legs wrought iron, tops are tiles painted with traditional Tyrolean designs. Long low wrought iron table in middle bearing plants. Walls have big oil paintings of mountains and a few inset beautifully dressed adverts for things like jewelry, ski-boots, woolens, internally lit. Magazines in various languages. Very fine soft dance music coming from the bar: it is luxurious in a cozy way, very soft lighting - statue of ? woman insert in end wall - but from behind for some ?? - from sides and front for others; air conditioning so no smoke or smell. Striking thing is to find the usual dozen people (mainly Americans and Italians) who seem to be always in bar and never ski - what an odd holiday. I spoke to one American who has spent a month here in this way - never out of a lounge seat - nor outside of the door (practically).

Up fresh this am (awoke and shaved before the boys woke - usual holiday habit!) ; good breakfast in austere wooden breakfast room - boys had chocolate - I coffee - rolls very fresh with butter and jam. Then out - I got a new and very fine pair of skis from the Ski-Schule shop - so all to the practice slopes: got C. and M. a book of tickets each (20s for 30 journeys) for ski-tow - they were delighted and later made excellent use of them: they went off to the only children's class (of 10) and enjoyed it greatly - rather easy for them and the lady instructor seemed pleased with Michael particularly!! - liked his style. But C. very happy to be the best there!

I went to top class (of 8) - amusing and most intelligent instructor (Fritz); class only fair - contains one American, a Siamese?, a French girl, an Italian, 2 Scotch, 1 English and me. Good and fairly easy fun on excellent slopes for a beginner to learn - snow thin - but most pleasant. Doing Christies mainly - my legs are a bit wobbly - but technique remains good.

Picked boys up - down for lunch (ham with mustard sauce, then soup, a goulash and a cooked apple in pastry) - drank a beer. Up to Ski-Sch. - boys off on a little walking expedition - our class took bus (4s) and went up to first chair lift (it can be reached by 20 minute walk straight up hill); bought book of tickets for 5 rides at 9s: really comfortable type of ski-lift - you put on skis and just sit down when chair comes along - get off as for other ski-lifts; Fritz brought us down again, practicing various sliding turns - up again - down by different route (not far) and different exercises - up once more - and down on fairly fast spin - past bottom and on down to Igls - not difficult and good rather gentle fun (B. will be pleased to know I am taking it easy!). "Winkled" the boys away from their skis - and tried the "Landhaus-Beck" (annex of the hotel near practice slopes) for tea: nice quiet place - but service slow: however much cheaper than here - 2 chocs, 1 tea, 3 big lovely cakes - 19.70s. Dull without music and dancing. Left skis there and wandered through lamplit village looking at shops - small - nice but too few. Nice little ice-rink; houses pretty with painted signs and pictures on walls; one wall (gable) hung with strange looking things which proved to be corn-on-the-cob.

A good wash - boys look well in colored shirts and "longs" and ate good dinner - soup, an entrecote, roast beef with "flat" chips, carrots, French beans and onion-rings covered with a kind of pastry, then a plate of Amental? cheese and butter - eaten with bread. I drank some wine, boys had a very nice bottle of orangeade each.

Read in lounge - lady chatting to Michael asked what he had learned at ski school. Michael replied "mostly how to fall". Up to bed where boys wrote a note to B. while I did also. A bit lonely - but feel rested and healthy. Will go to bed now.

**Tues. Jan 6 in lounge at 10.30pm**

Awake and up again before the boys came to life this am; some sort of vague holiday (being "Twelfth Night") - so no rolls but ordinary bread for breakfast; out first to ski-hut (a rough and ready sort of workshop) to get Michael a new pair of sticks - he had broken the leather "spokes" of one wheel. Collected skis at Landhaus-Beck where we left them last night. (It costs 1s each night to keep them in hotel ski-place - and not so handy). Boys enjoyed the morning - they

went into woods and had fun dodging trees - were the best in their class. (I bought them badges yesterday - they're very fond of them.) We practiced slowish Christies - and were fairly lazy - talking mostly about the ski-jumping competition at Berg-Isel? in afternoon - apparently it is one of a series of four - the combined winner being practically world champion.

Fritz continues to be very amusing. I told him he was smoking too much - he said "If I smoke too much I die. If I do not smoke I die. So!!!" Again "You do not say Heil Hitler with your ski - just lift it a little bit - and make an old instructor happy - Please!!!" Again "You do not ski to martial music - always hear a beautiful waltz in your ear - from this moment and always in your life till five minutes before you die - have zis waltz in your ear when you ski". A lady falls dropping hopelessly to the side of her skis - he looks and says "Ah - she is the dying swan in Lohengrin!" Perhaps his best was when we were charging down a slope yesterday doing linked? turns. I kept up close - we stopped at the bottom and looked back at most of the others in various stages of disaster. He smiled and said "Korea!".

Lunch at 12.00 sharp. Got everything on (its cold watching jumping) - bus at hotel door (return each 10s) - down to Innsbruck and to Berg-Isel on the outskirts - a precipitous "pimple" of a hill - starting hut on top - bottom runs up to another hill facing jump - excellent view. Thousands there. Jumping 2.00pm till about 3.30pm - 40 competitors each having two jumps. Standard was superb - probably the world's best jumpers - won by Austrian Pradis? (from ??) who had a bit of bad luck not to win Olympic Games - missed a take-off. Fantastic soaring through air - jumps over 70 meters. Brad? Norwegians use new technique - hands well forward and motionless - like a glider - most of the others used older arm swinging - one very good Yugoslavian (Jamie Poldar who was 4th) used newest technique with arms back like birds wings. Second place (close) to Norwegian 3rd to Swiss. Swedes very good. Only one fall in the lot - very terrifying it looks but I think he was OK. One striking feature - the loud slap of the two landing skis. Ambulance had injured man away immediately and without ceremony.

Home by bus - a bit cold about the feet. Amused in bus by guide "Rudi" and his knowledge of English songs and history. Told us Berg-Isel was a kind of "Battle of Hastings" in 1807 when Andreas Hofer (a national hero now - a kind of Robin Hood) dared to hold out against Napoleon and actually defeated the French - but was later betrayed and shot.

Beautiful views from bus on way up. Brenner Pass (to Cortina etc.) is just behind us. Home at 4.30pm - dumped cameras - out for skis and skied till after dark. Then we tried the Hotel Stern? for tea - but no dancing - stove had gone kaput - but had nice reasonable tea. Back to hotel at 6.30pm - washed Michael all over at the basin - down for very nice dinner. Had intended getting boys off to bed early but head waiter insisted they o into the bar to see special Tyrolean dancing and music - due to start at 9.00pm - didn't till 9.30pm. Boys thrilled with all the drinks about them and by the "show" - al in Tyrolean costume - women and men singers and dancers) 3 men - 2 with zither-like instruments on tables - 1 with a harp. Quite fun - a bit unsophisticated and unrehearsed - but authentic. Very sleepily up to bed at 10.00pm. I drank a local "hootch" - "sliner-something" [Sliverwitz? made from ?] - cost 6s. Michael wanted a sherry "like Mummy and Sally" but didn't get it. Very sleepy - enjoying the boys company - but wish B. were here to complete us. Dropped card to Colin. Bed. ? Nearly 1.00am.

**Wed. Jan 7**

First big event - getting letter from B. before breakfast - posted last Friday. We all read it over and over - makes great difference - to have established contact again. But do wish she was here.

Sun already topping the mountain tops before breakfast (maybe just because of B.'s letter). Rolls, coffee, chocolate again - out to classes - less clothes on. C. and M. have friends and class seems ore like a game to them now - hugely enjoyed. I saw M. tearing down a slope chasing some friend - going like mad - as easy on skis as on his feet - small jumps and all. Wish B. could have seen the delight on his face - he didn't know I was looking. C. as ever - more individualist - but obviously very please with life. They ? every moment with skis - hell of a job to get them into meals.

Our class practiced control of side-slipping and so on - not very dramatic - but good for us. Fritz was asking us to place the ski softly in the snow after a particular turn - one girl had a good "edge" which tracked the snow - so he scolded her for ?? skiing and said "Look at this track! It will remain for the next generation - and the next - and in a thousand years they will put up a monument to this track, saying "Here Miss So-and-so did a stem- Christiana". Again "I do not work for the money. I live to see a little of what I say come out in your ski-ing. And when it come not out, I die. I die in the mornings, I die again in the afternoons."

Good lunch - Michael found a second batch of money in the snow on the way to the hotel. Boys got 10s each from me and went by bus to chair lift - up on chair lift and skied down home. Fritz took our class - now numbering 5 - on a "lang-lauf" - first up in cable car to 1/2 way station (Heiligwasser) - down through woods - over broad fields of soft snow - good runs - a fair amount of walking the dodging through quite thick pines - out to fields again and so to Igls. Rather tired - sun going down - but hills round valley beautiful. The Italian girl was cut off by language from the rest of us - but suddenly I had the idea that she might speak French, found she did and chattered away to her in fine style, interpreting for the others! She tells me that Cortina is expensive and somewhat difficult. Equally good - only place (among others) - is Sabata - much cheaper.

After class collected big luge for tonight (deposit 100s) and left skis to be waxed - badly in need of it - Swiss look after skis much better.

Found Michael - C. nowhere about - came to hotel and found him in bed in tears - he had wet his trousers and one stocking - nothing that couldn't be put right easily - fixed him up! Out for good tea and big cakes with hot chocolate in the Landhaus-Beck (19.70s) - home - dinner at 7.00pm - finished my wine - put on everything but kitchen stove and out to cable car (with boys) at 8.15pm. Up to middle station - changed to upper car (Fare 8.50s each) - got off at pylon 3/4 way up. Innsbruck lights far below - black night. Climbed to little ?austhaus - the Eigbahn? - and sat around benches drinking hot red wine - singing all sorts of songs - boys great success at "10 green bottles" - ended with Tyrol drinking song "Saffaus": at each month in the song the person born in that month stand up on the seat or table. All glasses are first filled. You must not drink till standing up and then only when chorus comes; the chorus continues until the person standing up has downed his glass - then continues by everyone linking arms and shoving hard from side to side. M. was having success by standing up with red cheeks and two shining eyes and about 2 teaspoons of wine. - and drinking when "July" came. At the end of the song the party is over (good way to end a party). Out into frightening blackness and cold - terrifying run with boys - but they were very good - great experience - pine woods, snow, speed, danger, winking lights below. A few tosses. M. went with Austrian boy for last mile or so - mad it easier for me. Home - happily weary - on stroke of midnight. Got boys into bed - finished a note to B. and into bed myself.

Memo: girl's jumper I saw last night - tell B. - raglan sleeves, polo neck - coming into a deep "V" - neck and cuffs black, rest light khaki.

Also ?? Austrian is "Gross Gott" - but colloquially "Servus". Wayside shrines smell of aromatic wood - smoke coming in window every morning when I waken.

**Thurs. Jan 8. Hotel Lounge 10.00pm**

Weather dull again - light powdery snow - but very pleasant. Woke early as usual - none the worse - shaved - woke the boys about 8.45am and down to another good breakfast. We sit in a corner seat of bow window and watch goings on outside while we eat.

Took luge back (hire= 5s) - picked up skis - now well waxed - and all to practice slopes.

Did well on the "General's Hub" (a pimple of a hill) - Fritz seemed pleased though - in a nice way - he can be frightfully cutting. "An old master of skiing has to bend to make this turn - but we English (his eyes close - draws himself up erect) do not bend - we do not have to." Also - on the subject of bending knees - he walks over anxiously and feels a lady's leg - saying - "There must be - do look carefully - there is no other explanation - there must be a ski stick down your trouser leg, madam."

Boys still evry happy in class - except about some wee girl who is always falling!! They really enjoy the ski-tow and were immensely pleased when I "came off" - I was practicing balancing on separate feet and putting glove on at the same time - but both were delighted that "Daddy fell!!!". We are always last to leave the ski slopes for lunch. Was talking to French man and lady from Paris - recommended Legets? (neat Morzine) as being reasonable and good. Extras less than Swiss. Girl in class says Davos wonderful but frightfully expensive.

Good lunch - can now guess fairly closely what food is going to be from menus (lunch and dinner always four full courses - delectable food).

All up together by bus to Heiligwasser chairlift - fixed C. and M. up with tickets for two rides each - went up first with them - then separated. Went cross-country with Fritz in general direction of Lans - but then he changed his mind and we set off for Innsbruck; very varied and interesting skiing - long gentle fields with occasional big dips (probably ditches in summer) and soft snow - then here and there really steep brows. When we got going and Fritz hotted up the pace I skied like a dream and he seemed very pleased. One wisecrack when looking back at 2 or 3 coming down dangerously "What you call those - those Japanese suicide bombers?"

Fell in with next class down - quite good skiers - near end. I think Fritz wanted to show off - he dared instructor to follow him through a hedge (literally - just like an Irish thorn hedge - your nose almost had to touch the skis to get under and through) - and down an immediately following hellish steep slope of beaten snow. He yelled back "Come on" - so I charged through and skied down like a dream ?? with a left stop Christie at the bottom - and watched every other members of both classes coming to ?? grief. As ever, I do better if going like blazes - with no time to think.

We came to big plaza? in Mannheim? on outskirts of Innsbruck - to find we had missed the 4.00pm train and bus - so went to local "Hotel Schonruh" - small clean inn and shared a litre of hot red wine among the 8 of us (total= 30s). Fritz taught us game of hitting and catching beer mats at edge of table. Then a 1/4 mile to train - and back to Igls (2.10s). Arrived 5.30pm - feeling very fit - but worried about boys who were to meet me as usual about 4.30pm. Rushed up and found them very sensibly at hotel having put skis away! Both looked a trifle worried. We thought maybe there had been an accident, Daddy, and were worried about you! It was extremely sweet and unselfish - and also made me feel somewhat old! They must have had a very lonely hour knocking about on the ski slopes and waiting.

To make up - even though late - we set out for tea - but main event was finding another letter from B. (postmarked Monday) - delighted - we devoured it over tea. I read it out - when I paused M would say in a trance-like voice "Go on, go on!"

But first we looked in Photo window (shop already shut) and saw good snaps of ourselves. Went into Stellnerhof Hotel - looks big outside - but obviously a local dive. Men gathered around drinking beer and listening to an old fellow playing rather well on a small harp. Had quite a good tea, chocolate and 2 cakes - slightly dearer than Landhaus-Beck (25.20s). One of the denizens brought round water-colours for sale at 40s each. We rather liked them and picked out 2 - and offered him an English pound for them - he accepted and we bore them home in triumph - they're rather nice. Boys got ready for dinner while I dressed nasty gash in leg of Edinburgh dentist.

Good dinner - boys ate well - M. had cider, C. the usual orange and I beer. Lot of chat - read in lounge for a while - and at nine glanced into bar at start of "Candlelight Ball" - candles are wicks floating in oil in bottom of glass "stems". Gave C. a wash down at basin - both sleepily to bed and came down to lounge to write this. Perhaps I originally underrated Igls - boys love their runs down this afternoon - "Two new runs, Daddy" - or maybe I just feel better now that I've heard from B. - but quite frankly I look forward to going home as I've never done before. Must write to B.

Memo: Light switches go "up" for on; no tuck-in in bottom or sides of bed clothes (usual big mattress things on top); almost square small oil-paintings of mountains and pleasants? in bedrooms and landings - simple, broad, strong - very satisfying and decorative.

### **Fri. Jan 9. Bedroom at 11.00pm**

Light snow again - but not objectionable - cleared later and sun almost came through. It never has been cold.

Class as usual. Boys very happily in theirs - is it because they win all the races? M. was first in 1st race this am - 4th in second race - but says he got off to a bad start. C. was 2nd in both races and very sympathetic about M.s bad start which he confirmed.

Fritz in hell of a mood (for some reason) - so class a bit haywire. New snow sticky - so going is slow - but - though doing nothing new - I enjoyed it. A feature of the school is what they call the "second breakfast" - a series of very good preliminary exercises done by whole school standing in a circle - in middle a different instructor each morning. Quite hard work - but very sensible exercises. Instruction on the whole very good - but would not be really good for the beginner - but maybe I'm wrong there - for three beginners I've met seem very happy - and accidents are almost non-existent - certainly nothing like the Swiss centres (e.g. none since we came - apart from a wrenched shoulder).

Met boys a little earlier than usual and strolled quietly to nearby shop where (at M.s request ) I bought a cake of wax for the skis (2.40s). Also bought two little cigarette "putters-out" for 1.50s each.

A good lunch - talked of going to Innsbruck - but decided to put it off till tomorrow - went up - waxed skis - bus - Fritz in decidedly better form. Told me of capturing (as a child) rooks, woodpeckers, a hawk, and squirrels and 5 ? . Kept them at home - but freely - except the hawk - which would have flown off altogether - so he has a tree in his room for it.

Up to chairlift - gave boys tickets - they had a couple of rides and some "whizzers" of runs apparently. We set off as yesterday - rather easy going towards Innsbruck - but ended at a small station called Aldrans and got train home at 4.00pm (fare 1.80s). Enjoyed it. One wisecrack from Fritz - a girl (we are now 6 in all) buried herself a couple of times in a slope - "We play submarines".

Picked up boys at slopes - parked skis - back to hotel for travellers cheques - found yet another letter from B. All greatly thrilled. Called in Tourist bureau - a

delightfully decorated house - big bronze handles on doors - gay paintings on walls - and got some Austrian cash. Found photographers once more shut - so walked past ice-rink (small - a dozen skaters - good - with music) and on to Tirolerhof for tea. It is about size of Sport Hotel - beside railway terminus - rather out of the way for skiing. Pleasant, fairly soignée - most comfortable and quiet tea bar - with only 5 others there - and a 3-piece band. Had usual choc. and tea with small biscuits (23.50s) - re-read B.s letter - and read French and German magazines - back to own hotel.

Here the band (3-piece) is absolutely first rate for dancing - or listening - and plays from about 4.00pm till 6.30pm and 9.00pm to heaven knows when. Dressed lazily - dinner - gave boys their first (small) glass of white wine - M. didn't drink much - C. finished his. Talked a good deal - and sat till 9.00pm in the bar - at M.s request - where he admired the corks on all the bottles (like the Swiss ones). Off sleepily to bed by 9.15pm. Went out in lamplight streets to get a few photos - only took one - chatted to a couple of men in lounge - felt so sleepy that I came up to bed. A pleasant quiet day.

Memo: Faucets of water running here and there - often into troughs made by hollowing out a big tree trunk. Several new houses going up here and there - often perched on pinnacles of small sharp hill - left completely open and unfinished till spring comes.

Fritz tells me that about April here one can go up and ski on nice snow on north slopes of Patscherkofel - say in mornings - and play tennis - or bathe in warm lake (Lansersee) in afternoon (? Idea for a holiday?).

Memo: Excellent pair of skis bought by lad in Innsbruck for 300s - Fritz says its about usual price (complete with Kandahar bindings);

Memo: Decoration idea - large face-masks - eyes and nose and mouth cut out - red paper inserted - roughly painted - whole thing curled over wall-fitting light (say at Christmas). Also large conical shade - coming up to a point on top (no escape of light) - made of fairly heavy stuff - on a rather low standard lamp. Ref. also hotel notepaper and model for own (design and size).

### Sat. Jan 10. Lounge at 10.30pm

More snow - but quite pleasant - not blinding - and cleared now and then. A bit wet and sticky for skis. Called after breakfast and got photos and posted them off home (later) in Innsbruck. Up to ski school - Fritz in better humour - but soon after start took us to the Greberhof? (top of practice slopes - good position - handy - sort of big comfortable guest house) - we had to drink a glass of red wine to celebrate the grievous and tragic loss of his pipe yesterday evening!! After that lesson was easy and ended with "Home Horses?" which ended in bar of Sport Hotel - where I was joined by C. and M.: drank a Amer Pico? and stood Fritz a drink (total 20s) - then a good lunch.

At 2.15pm caught a local train (or tram) for Innsbruck (boys 1/2 price - total whole way 4.40s). Rather lovely run down - change at Berg-Isel for train into city centre (Marie Theresen Strasse) wandered around window shopping. Rather pathetic - obviously far from prosperous - blitz sites - and old German buildings interspersed - but some lovely Austrian artistic touches (e.g. huge archway as War Memorial - tall and elegant wrought iron gate, etc.). Bought one or two odds and ends - had 3 cups of excellent coffee, 3 rolls and piece of cheese (no butter to be had) for about 25s in the station cafe (new). Found Pederhofer's(?) shop - bought excellent pair of ski boots for 540s: many as cheap as 200s - but not such good value - made preliminary enquiries about pants and jacket - bought M. nice pair of canvas gloves - afternoon gone - so tram back in dark. Boys seem completely content - but C. somewhat nettled at absence of any real toys (e.g. trains) in Austria (as I found at Bad Ischl).

All had big bath - washed boys hair - and ate excellent dinner. C. thoroughly approve of Parisienne-Kartoffel. Sat in cozy bar (as usual) till first tune was played - but drummer came in first and played piano ? and wonderfully. M. greatly impressed at his versatility. C. rather more impressed by profit made from bottle of liqueur! Got boys into bed - and finished note to B. - miss her terribly.

Memo: Boys have looked well in evenings in white shirts and longs - hair plastered down etc. Have picked up a surprising number of good manners at table - and we have wonderful conversations about everything under the sun! They're picking up quite a bit of French and German vocabulary too. Still do wish B. were here - or I with her - otherwise everything is enjoyable - but only enjoyable - not an exciting adventure: still I feel rested in mind and body - and I think I needed this.

### Sun. Jan 11. 9.30pm

Party all went to Tirolerhof for dance last night. Decided I better put in an appearance - not to appear "sticky" - so went out about 11.30 - but smoke and noise terrific and did not feel like wining and dancing. Sat for an hour chatting - danced twice and came home at about 12.30; party went on till 4.00am.

Snow again this am; got ski waxed - new boots fit admirably - as if I'd worn them all my life. Snow beautifully soft and powdery - practised long swinging slow turns - and ended by watching start of cross-country race (Langlauf?); race is 18km - they do it in about 1 hour.

Good lunch; would have gone up to Patscherkofel - but thought it better to keep away from Sunday crowds from Innsbruck. So we bought badges of Igls and some stocknagel? and took bus up to chairlift as usual: all morning and afternoon C. and M. have had lady ski instructor all to themselves - they had a couple of good runs. We went off towards Patsch - through virgin snow - tiring at times but very lovely and good practice for soft snow work: sun just trying to break through and occasionally mountains appear through ?? clouds. Saw up towards Brenner Pass - also up Stubaital? (could see one of its glaciers). Pratsch village, Mutter, etc. below us. Ended with fast chase through deep soft snow - very puffed.

Boys were playing at a jump when I found them and doing very well at it (without sticks): had a few fairly good jumps myself. Tried the Batzenhausl Pension for tea - small clean, Austrian, quiet - probably inexpensive - but tea was dearest yet (tea, 2 chocolates, 2 large cakes 5s each - total 27.0s). Near local railway station. Fairly handy. Incidentally found out that Fritz keeps a pension - the Schondek?, so after tea, already dark, we strolled round and found it - rather out of the way for ski school - but beautifully placed on edge of valley - fine views - seemed nice from the outside. Fritz has 3 daughters about our boys ages - if we stayed there they could ski together.

Home with lots of time to dress for dinner: re-arranged inside clothing - M. wrote a postcard to Clayton Moore - I washed a pair of socks (more for amusement than need). Showed M. how to get impressions of coins on silver paper.

Dinner excellent - I drank water (as we do now always at lunch). Food has been quite delicious - and lots of it. Boys specially thrilled because "pudding" is so often in form of an elaborate gâteau of some sort. We usually take about 3/4 hour for dinner - which is phenomenal for C. and M. Chat at our table still good. We change places with each other now and then: sit in a cozy corner - good view - serviettes in envelopes - food beautifully served - usually as a central dressed dish for me to divide. Waiters and waitresses most pleasant and attentive - pouring out one's drink and so on. Very good about advising one on cost of soft drinks, etc.

Read magazine in lounge for 1/2 hour - then up to bedroom. Showed C. and M. how to play "Shove ha'penny" on glass-topped bedtable - then got them into

bed - they've just now gone to sleep.

I went out for a moment to pinch a corn-on-the-cob from a gable for M. Evenings out are clear, fresh and lovely - lamplight on sparkling snow - small village peaceful - sharply cold. Still dull without B. - but feeling healthy if not quite contented. Shall drop her a note and turn in.

Memo: Paid wine bill last night - total for week 111s.

Oxen pulling transport sledges quite usual. Pleasant bell-ringing at each hour from local clock. Just remembered that "Eigebahn" from where we started toboggan run isn't primarily a guesthouse but the hill station of a farm in the valley - up to which the cattle (and the farm) moves when summer comes and the snow departs upwards.

### **Mon. Jan 12. Bedroom at 10.15pm**

Clear day - fair amount of sun in morning. Boys were "soaking" (?too tired yesterday) - so tidied things up a bit. Breakfast made excellent by getting a letter from B. though she seems depressed not to have got any letter yet. I'm so sorry that this post business is always so awkward from Europe. The only solution is for her to be here.

Took camera (black and white stills) out this am - took some haphazard shots on practice slopes. Possibly no good without colour. Boys and self worked fairly hard - sun in snatches. Good lunch: off to cable railway for Patscherkofel - boys coming also (with instructress): fare reduced for our party from 14.0s to 8.50s (4s for Michael). Took still camera. Exciting ride up (to 7300ft): talked to Dutch girl on way who has skied at Berwang and Chamonix: says Berwang only for beginners - very tiny - only 3 hotels - one small ski-tow as on practice slopes here. Says Chamonix expensive but does not seem to think it excessively so : stayed also at small place near Chamonix (?name). Incidentally some members of party not terribly keen on Adelboden - says long distances to lifts - and queues at lifts, etc. Same people loved Davos and the Parsenn?

Beautiful wall of mountains across valley above Innsbruck. Very cold on top: Bergstation not attractive - big - utilitarian - prices of drinks, etc, high. Sat a little in cafe to await the others coming up. Boys went on down. Then out. Fritz took us at first off the piste through deep powder snow - through heavily laden pine woods - beautiful - but cold - sun gone (23 degrees frost): then it became apparent that only way down was through a kind of path cut in the woods. This was so beaten down that in parts (especially "The Gully") pure ice showed through in sheets. Impossible to ski on this - so one just "spragled" down. I came down well - but at one part ice gave way and when I fell even my flat body on ice and skis spread out did not prevent my sliding downhill for about 30 yards. No real danger or difficulty but not at all pleasant. One or two in our party were obviously scared still - so we waited endlessly for them - and got cold. Finally when we reached top of lower chairlift slopes we got the only really good run of the afternoon - glorious bashes across and across with parallel Christies the whole way and so down to the practice slopes where I found C. and M. had arrived 1.25 hours before me. (I was down at 5.15pm - but must have spent about that time waiting for others). C. and M. thoroughly happy to have done the run and seemed to have done it well. General impression - not a good run - too many "lanes" at top - only good bits are within reach of the lower chairlift. Except at the top, views largely obscured by trees.

Since we were so late - we had tea in own bar - with 3 cakes. Cost us "the moon" (tea and choc. 21s: cakes 14s). But warm, companionable, good music and danced twice. Instructress there with her own little girl who asked M. to dance but he was too shy. Boys talked to Peter (?who) about Japan, etc. - and learnt some Japanese words. Then up for wash and down for good dinner. Boys pleasantly sleepy - so took coats for a five minute stroll outside - pinched a corn-on-the-cob (to take home to Mummy!) - in to bed at 9.30pm.

Drank 1/4 litre red wine (open) at dinner. [Local name for hot red wine is "Gluvmine?".] Sat in lounge reading French newspaper (to let boys get over to sleep) - then up myself. Shall turn in soon - but must write first to B.

### **Tues. Jan 13. 10.45pm in Lounge.**

Dull overcast morning - but rolls and coffee and chocolate as welcome as ever! Out to practice slopes - new people in class (Canadians) and children's class now up to 4. Snow nice - did nothing very strenuous - but felt well. At 10.00am talked to Instructress of C. and M. full of praise for their run from Patscherkofel yesterday - also told me that she herself had been up there this morning - and that there is brilliant sun up above a sea of clouds - she had a great ski down.

Whole school going ski-jaring this afternoon - but as it is along roads it didn't sound particularly worthwhile (as in fact it apparently turned out to be) - so we decided, since lovely sun just came out at lunch, to get some colour cine - so out after lunch for an hour - took C. and M. on practice slopes, etc. - finished 50ft - then parked skis and off to 3.15pm train for Innsbruck: sun up to 3.45pm then bitterly cold. Called in bank and found out about savings account (easy and one gets 4 percent interest!). Then off to Sports shop where we had the good luck to get ski pants and jacket (each under 4 pounds) - also pair of gloves as present for Colin. Wanted badly to buy B. a nylon nightdress but both boys so strongly disapproved that I was put off my stroke and didn't! They want a liqueur set hanging on an iron frame! Bought Sally a pretty brooch and wandered into one or two quite elegant shops we had missed before - beautiful use of plate glass "married" to wood and bronze in big and interesting shapes; this specially true of glassware shops. Still no toys about!

Found typical Austrian cafe in Museum Strasse - had big cakes that were almost too sweet and rich even for C.!! Usual hot chocolate with large mountain of cream on top. I had tea - all served with the addition of a glass of iced water which was renewed when finished: lots of magazines, etc (cost 29s). Found few really big and smart shops in Museum Strasse. One interesting pullover for lady - golden yellow round body - black sleeves, black 3/4 inch edging round the sides of two pockets, black neck.

Then tram at 6.15pm for Igls - somewhat stuffy with people getting home from business and bitterly cold outside. C. and I talked politics.

Dressed - big dinner - with beer and orangeade - and sat in bar to see and hear more Tyrolean dancers and a singer: boys enjoyed it. Lady nearby greatly admired their gay shirts and belts. Drank a "Slivowitz" - and so sleepily up to bed. Later I talked in the lounge to Matthew who was a tropical medicine specialist in Army during war- knew Jack Simon? etc.

A man today said he liked Pontresina? and that it was sunny and near St. Moritz - if you wished to go in.

### **Wed. Jan 14. Bed(!) - 9.15pm.**

Woke at 7.30am and boys shortly after: darkness just gone and sun coming up. Before we had finished dressing it had tipped all the mountain tops a beautiful rose. Dressed lazily - wearing new trousers. Found window hard "ice-flowers" on the insides of the panes. [Although the bedroom has stout double doors, the windows are single.]



Good breakfast (no letter from B.). Out by 9.30am - bitterly cold (actually 15 degrees below freezing point). No one on slopes but ourselves - our thumbs especially were painfully cold - M. shed a few tears even - but warmed up with exercise. Cold continued till about 11.00am when sun was actually shining on us - classes went off well - boys were eventually very rosy and happy. We practiced mainly turning with use of ski stick on difficult slopes.

Stacked skis on sunny wall of little shop at bus stop - collected still camera - took a few Kodachromes. C. and M. took a shot each. Particularly good lunch (main dish a Bavarian one of pork, ham, sausage, sauerkraut, etc.) Boys went off by bus to Heiligwasser chairlift where they enjoyed themselves. We went up by cable car to Patscherkofel: cold but brilliant sun on top. Fritz took us round the mountain through deep lovely snow drifts - sparse pines quite laden with soft snow in huge "dollops" and magnificent views of Brenner Pass and the Tyrol mountains (Sertes?, Stubai, etc.) and tiny villages in the valleys (Matres?, etc.). Across valley beyond Innsbruck I saw Seegrube? in the first glimpse of sun this am and it continued to get sun all day long. It is a big hotel on a high shelf - reached by railway from Innsbruck - possibly 8 or 9000ft up - in idyllic snow: another lift goes on up to Hafelekar? above it - the skiing looks difficult. It would be worth going up (and down) from Innsbruck if time permits.

Down in soft snow through trees - no fast runs - then I think Fritz got confused for he took us on bobsleigh run down to Patsch - and quite a ?? performance - skiing impossible on icy ruts - actually ended up by riding our sticks - never was so sore about the thighs. With delay - ?? - we were still a long way from home when sun went down at 4.00pm. Next hour was frightful - cold intense in fingers, ears - everything frozen - past Patsch and along fairly flat country - I think - some pretty houses - but impressions difficult in agony of cold - finally down at 5.15pm - having done alot of touring but practically no skiing! Ears deaf with cold when I met boys in hotel. Put on white sweater for first time and had most grateful tea in Sport Hotel bar - boys ate gigantic cakes - beautifully slowly! and drank their usual chocolate. After an hour we were all thoroughly thawed out - so up at 6.30pm to dress lazily for dinner. The others go on another toboggan run together - but we are wisely voting for comfort.

Ate powerful dinner - hors d'oeuvres and lemon, coquette potatoes, gorgonzola after it - and 1/4 litre red wine. Hans, the waiter, kindly, left the boys a Roy Rogers comic and a couple of illustrated papers which we read quietly in the lounge. All voted for bed at 9.00pm and we all got in - now the two boys are already sound asleep! I'm nearly asleep myself.

Find new boots and trousers a delight to ski in.

Talking to London boy who stays in Innsbruck and travels up each day for skiing. Distinctly cheaper (booked through Austrian travel agency) - stays in very good hotel, the Central - has bed and breakfast for 30s, bath 10s, says attention excellent. Has some sort of coupons for food in restaurants - but finds Innsbruck cheaper than here. Travel up by tram costs only 2.20s each way. I like the idea. Hired skis, etc, down there. Would have the advantage that one could go up to Seegrube? easily.

Also Fritz seems quite sure that I could do some ski tours - at any rate, one or two day tours. Keep in mind for future - perhaps with C. Must sleep.

#### **Thurs. Jan 15. Bedroom - 9.15pm.**

No letter from B. this am - so don't know yet for certain that she has heard from us in Igl! Woke early - but boys even sleepier than usual - awake about 8.30am; beautiful morning - saw mountain tops go from grey to pink to bright gold to white. Boys delighted that we shall be by ourselves and do as we like and when we like.

After breakfast went to shop and explored; found fascinating corks - bought one and a few other odds and ends. Packed rucsac with cameras - wore black ski blouse - very comfortable and warm - big roomy pockets. In spite of sun, sharp wind in the air. Up to cable car at 10.30am and went up to Heilingwasser Station. Brilliant views across valley. Track of deer feet on snowy fields below. (saw woodpecker yesterday in woods).

Set off on run towards Innsbruck; boys surprisingly fascinated by walk and "slither" through pine trees - and quite overjoyed by long thrilling run (about 2 miles) across dipping fields into the valley; got the odd photo; didn't warn them about the big dips (sort of "ruts") each falling 8-10ft - and were full of "krak" that I was trying a "fast one" on them. They took this section at a terrific speed - straight - going was difficult. Soft snow of a few days ago has been beaten hard - and recent cold has iced the top. So falls are inevitable. Final section is sheer icy drop or two - greatly appreciated - especially by C. Both doing amazingly well. Came down so fast that we decided we could catch the 11.45 tram out of Innsbruck at Aldrans - and did so - so back in excellent time for lunch: brilliant sun.

Ate well - discussed plans. Out again for 2.00pm cable car to same station. Boys skied down to get chair lift while I stayed to take cine: followed this with a few descents - up again by chairlift till our tickets were done.

Getting cold about 3.00pm - set off again for same downhill run - but went further - to Schloss Ambras - and managed to get 3.45pm train for Innsbruck at local station (Schonruh?). Again the run was voted as "smashing". Stood on outside platform on way home - admiring radio masts of Radio Innsbruck, the small bathing place at Muhlsee (with canoer) and the bigger one at Lansersee?. Both look as though they could be very gay in summer - charming cafes, etc. (all shut now).

Home. Stopped in railway shop - bought two more corks and one or two trinkets. Parked skis. Cold in valley though sun still on Serles?, Stubai, Alps, Seegrube? etc. Popped (at last) into shop where we saw the liqueur set, bought it at last - also cigarette lighter. Boys then decided that to celebrate their run I ought to buy them tea again in Sport Hotel - though it is expensive - so washed a bit and down for really big cakes, chocolate and tea. During teas asked by lady to have a look at her twisted ankle. Did so later - she says ?? and Tirolerhof both cheaper than here and fewer extras (eg. for breakfast in bed): says food better there.

Boys great favorite with barman who "reserves" a table for them when they come in! Also with Hans. Memo: Old maid servant on our corridor who always to stroke their cheeks as they pass - saying "Schone". Didn't dance - much to M.s disgust! Sat about till ?. Up for good wash. Boys refuse to pu on clean under clothes!

After tea boys instructress came over to chat - gave me her address in hopes that I might send her the odd photograph. Address is: Erika Hirtl, Wien XIX, Agnestrasse 2.

Before dinner chatted about how camera works. Down at 7.30pm for good feed - C. now armed with dictionary to help with menu. Drank beer to boys orangeade. Sat in bar afterwards. Boys helped barman to light "candles" for candlelight dance tonight. "Candles" are very cute. They are various brands of drink bottles, sawn off just below neck leaving labels etc. on. Then an inch or two of inside is filled with candle wax and a wick in the middle. This alone would do - but, in fact, bottles sit in frilled paper on saucer. Must try this out.

About the hotel various lampshades worth copying. One is wide disc above light - with long cone-shaped shade below. Wrought iron ones difficult to copy -

but "rope" effect from ceiling could be copied: flex of light is wound round with coarse twine with knots at either end.

Came downstairs to let boys get over to sleep. Band playing away in bar - soft - good dance music.

Today saw small blob on the bonnet of a green car: went over: found it to be a cute small green metal frog!

French Army wireless van practicing all day outside hotel - rather "scruffy" outfit. French distinctly inconspicuous here (the Army of occupation, I mean). Plenty of French and Italian visitors.

Have seen no more bullock carts - so no photos as yet.

Boys seem thoroughly content with their holiday - but, I think - like me - will be pleased to see B. and home again. Just one more complete day - probably best to take it relatively easy.

Got "Players" here for 10s - Chesterfields same price.

Bus leaves here at 7.30am on Sat. am - probably won't stop at Innsbruck - so have decided not to bother with parking cash here - it would mean a journey down tomorrow. Anyway (with Maurice to help at Belfast end) not really necessary.

Most girls dress for dinner here - a few of the men: a sorry business for the frocks look poor efforts - and it all seems out of place in skiing terrain: Swiss more sensible.

Memo: Girl in Sportshop in Innsbruck who wants news of George Randal (from N.I.) - in textiles - office in Glasgow - last London address "Stephens Gardens, Bayswater Court"; if any news write to "Annelies Meister, Innsbruck, Sillgasse Str. 19 Second Floor."

Memo: Large number of bird boxes of all sorts outside hotels and houses - sparrow almost tame.

Memo: Odd to find school children using schoolbags of "brief-case" case - carried in hand - with two metal clasps to close them - in land where rucksacs so common. Saw only one child with bag on back.

### **Fri. Jan 16. 9.30pm - at table in corridor of our floor.**

Woke early - day promised well - but high cloud came over and it remained sunless - but surprisingly warmer than for past few days. Somewhat troubled that no letter from B. - have not yet heard if she has got our letters - some worry at back of my mind all day - still not letter by late evening and we shall be away too early tomorrow for post, I'm afraid. Do hope everything all right.

Boys planned the day. All others are disorganized - a few are going up for some sort of tests in afternoon - better to keep boys away - for safety. Off by cable car to Heiligwasser and off on now-well-known run down to Schloss Ambras?: one or two skids on icy piste - not real damage. Very fast run - so lots of time to look at Schloss (an old hunting palace of Maria Theresa) - and catch 12.00 train back to Igls.

Parked skis - had a short stroll - dull but clear day and in for big lunch: have by now done some preliminary packing. Boys happy. Stood out on balcony of train all way home - seeing last views across valley - snow on trees - and wondered what it all looks like in summer.

Have fair amount of ski-tow tickets left - so went for quiet bit of fun to practice slopes - jumping - "hare and hounds" - "tig" - with plenty of rides up hill - much enjoyed by boys - few people - plenty of space - fast snow. Self a bit dull - possibly warm weather - possibly no letter from B. All stopped at 4.00pm - finally parted with skis - with regret - to ski house. Walked to Maximilian Hotel - found bar still closed - so decided on tea in our own hotel again. Bought some chocs (the first this holiday - moderate price) and biscuits for journey - also cheap but good watch strap. Almost finished packing - down for enjoyable tea at 5.00pm - got usual excellent table.

To my great surprise in walked Lucienne - the air hostess that B. and I met at Murren: she arrived at 11.00pm last night and seemed genuinely pleased to see me. Further coincidence - she was at Arosa (!) last year but earlier than B. and I. Again gave me her address - as I did not send snaps taken in train on way home from Murren. It is: Lucienne van Overloop, 188 Grande Chaussee, Antwerp.

On the subject of addresses, one girl in party thinks I have snaps of her (though I cannot remember taking any) - so if any, send to Nancy Davies, 8 Garscube Terrace, Edinburgh. or care of College of Agriculture.

Feeling fresher after tea. Good wash and some more packing: then boys and I went out in "evening" clothes to leave back their boots: fresh starry night - lamps winking through snow laden pines - strolled a bit - boys good - and in for last dinner. Good meal - paid for weeks drinks and bath and 4 packs of "Lucky Strikes" (about 70s) - everyone regretful at departure. One quiet waiter (?name) tells me he spends summer at his parents cafe St. Gilgen - must call if there - nice fellow. Pleased to find I knew the Salzkammergut.

After dinner chatted to nice quiet couple in party who were at Kitzbuhel last year with M.U.S. party: loved it: lived in little Gasthaus - 4 beds to a room - well looked after by ski leaders - nice day tours where it didn't matter much if you skied well (they certainly don't) - with singing in evenings. Really nice couple and they loved it.

Sat again in bar for first dance number - a last goodnight to Frederick, the barman (he works in Cafe Tirol, Dean Street, London, from March). Has been very sweet to children.

Talked in cable car this am to Sept?, the best youngish skier among teachers - tells me he trained Spanish team last year - two resorts in Pyrenees (forget names) - good snow - few hoists yet. Would have fulfilled contract at Aspen, Colorado, this season if visa had come in time. [Older men complain that all the best Austrian skiers are taken by Aspen or Sun Valley - for the money.] Works in summer for Austrian Travel Agency - last year for 8 months in London, year before in Rome. Was able to bring about 80 pounds savings back from London which he seems to think excellent. Worked for 8 pounds a week but did overtime sometimes up to 17 pounds - but Income Tax reduced this.

Noisy party downstairs at present - giving out presents for ski tests this afternoon. Must turn in - boys will be asleep by now - will be awake at 6.00am - leaving about 7.15am: must say I welcome first lap of journey back to B.

Memo: Beautiful printington walls - even on milk place - some sort of water-colour on bare concrete (sometimes). Also try out some wrought iron work at

home - if raw material available. Over windows, for lamps, for signs, or purely decorative.

### **Sat. Jan 17. 4.00pm - Munich Airport.**

Called at 5.45am: starlight night: let boys sleep a bit - then washed, closed bags and down for breakfast at 6.30am. A bit of time to waste - but bus at door by 7.00am - bags on. Ran around to local P.O. to see if letter from B. - but none by morning post; worried. Off at 7.30am - really comfortable bus -each of us has a rug - well-heated - wireless on, etc. Hills lightening up, lamps going out. Through Innsbruck - shops lit and already open (before 8.00am). After Innsbruck a long difficult climb up through the mountains. Through Zirl and Reith (little mountain resort and lake) - on through lovely mountains to Seefeld where we stopped for 20 minutes for coffee, etc.

Seefeld larger than Igls - lies on small flat plain with high mountains around - looks nice - but might have to walk far to ski-hoist. Beautiful snow - lots of it - powdery. Also a little expensive probably. Went into Hotel-Pension Alpenhut - had coffee, rolls, butter and jam (14.40s each). Delightful small hotel, clean, good taste, beautiful chairs, walls, etc. - on outskirts of Seefeld: lots of other hotels. About 4000ft up.

Scenery around beautiful, high craggy peaks - on to Scharnitz - a workaday pretty village in a defile: here Austrian customs and German customs with U.S. military police. Noticed big lorries from Germany with large trailers (sometimes 2). Sun now well up - mountains close and tops beautiful - going down. Lovely gorge to Mittenwald. All around looks prosperous. Beautiful snow. Signposts to Oberammergau. Through Mittenwald - quite a big town, skiers about, wall paintings in profusion - whole walls sometimes one big picture; oldish houses: altogether very nice.

No farm houses - but dotted about are little log huts whose walls slope up and out to roof: probably contain hay. Sun now really strong - shining from behind on peaks in front of us - valley widens - lovely really jagged peaks showing up.

Through Klais: bullock carts about - as in Austria: road now winds down steeply - brilliant sun - driver using loud harsh horn at icy corners: boys finish lemonade. Through Garmisch: not at all attractive - big Olympic built up jump on left - saw man taking it. Enormous height (jumps of about 120 meters). It is a sparse town in flat of the valley. Probably neighbouring Partenkirchen - the smart part.

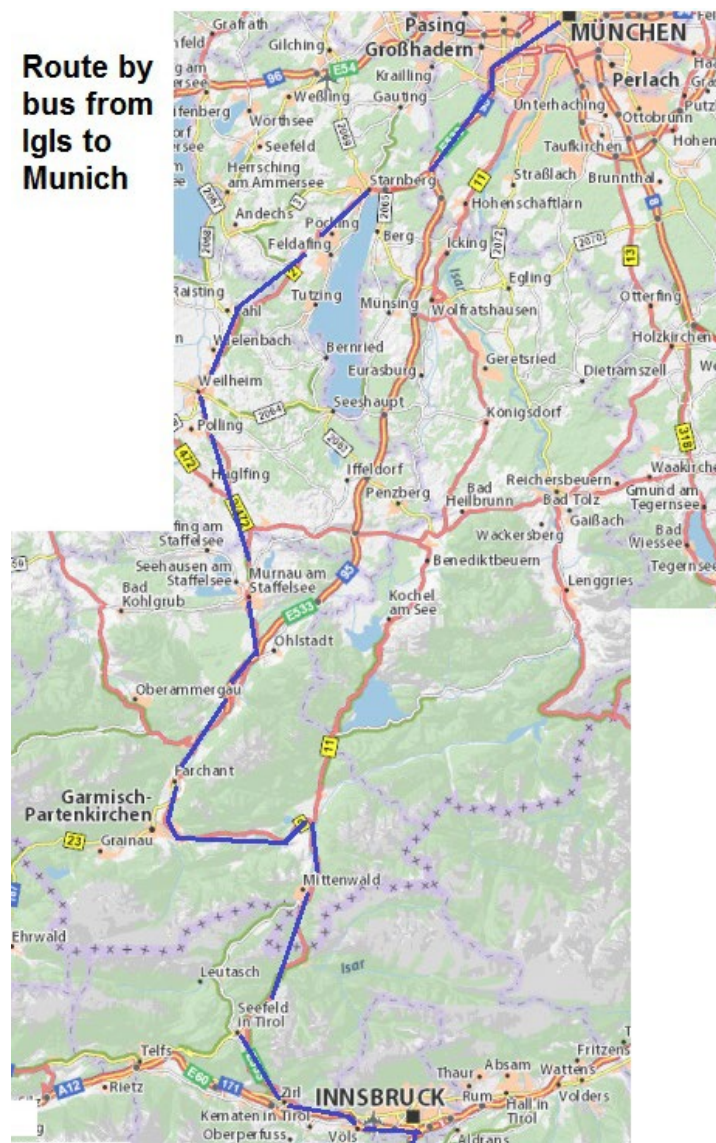
"Onion" spires on churches. No poverty about. Road now gently dropping in broad flat valley fringed with uniform mountains. Roads good. "Flapping" noise told us one of our wheel chains had broken - so stopped to take it off. Soon bare rock fringes the left side of the road: vertical frozen waterfalls - and two tunnels - which pleased the boys.

Plain now broadens greatly - very flat - hay still on poles - cannot understand the absence of farmhouses - literally miles of open ground with only occasional hay hut.

Through Murnau - rather like Magherafelt in size and dirt! More dull plains for miles - though newly planted silver birches line road where they are not already growing. Through Polling - many big cars - skis on top - pass us in opposite direction. Through Weilhelm - a moderate sort of dull town - provincial size - old. About 45 km from Munich we begin to climb again - road more interesting - pine forests - big clearings in between - no real sign of dwelling houses: no hedges whatever - on roadside or elsewhere. Country gets prettier, hilly. Through Starnberg - over paved roadways - pretty town - lots of wall paintings. More and more pines - a lovely approach to a big city.

Munich at last about 1.30pm - but approach is through dingy depressing poor suburbs. Blitz sites - a few lovely old buildings - but depressing on the whole.

## Route by bus from Igls to Munich



*Bus route from Igls to Munich*

Shock at airport - no word of plane: had lunch: airport building huge and truly magnificent - like inside of a cathedral: lounge has very comfortable seats - red - in hall lined with old Germanic heraldry emblems. Foyer has offices for airlines all over the world - but not a plane - later found that all planes from London and elsewhere grounded by fog - and delay will be 24 hours. We have contacted British Consul for money, booked in hotel in Munich and now wait for some final details before going off. Still worried about no news from B. - if she has written to Southway Hotel I shall not get letter: have considered cable - but apart from expense which doesn't matter - I don't think it would cause anything but confusion and alarm: had intended phoning from London - had "banked" on it mentally - but shall just have to wait.

### Later. 11.15pm in bed.

Almost interminable wait stretched on to 6.00pm when finally we got money from consul, hotel beds, etc. Have heard that every airport in Europe is closed because of fog - and Munich itself heree has just shut - the last to do so - and the first time in 10 years. There has been no plane into here from London since Monday! A plane from Tokyo for London has been sitting outside since yesterday am.

Had 15 minute walk in fog with boys - cheered by sight of new moon struggling through murk! Fair dinner at airport 6.30pm - 3.50 Marks each (special price). Then into bus - through Munich to Hotel Hansa Pension in Goethe Strasse? - near main railway. Purely a sleeping place - no meals - forbidding outside - but bedrooms excellent. We are all sleeping in two very large single beds put together - in clean, well furnished room - warm - with "smashing" private bathroom - where we have all had good hot soak. Plenty of lights, ashtray, etc. Price for us is 6.50 Marks each - normal price of a single room seems to be 15 Marks for single, 20 Marks for double. Parked bags and immediately rushed out to find "train" shop for C.: many nice shops - toys clever and good - but trains not in window. Anoraks cheap (3 pounds) - lady's ones nice. Went into station restaurant: C. and I had pots of coffee, M. pot of chocolate and later I had half litre beer. Coffee and choc. 1.30 Marks each, beer 0.5 Marks! Boys well pleased. Strolled home in good humour - have just had a few biscuits and an orange each in bed!!

Tonight said to be the big festive night in Munich - but have no desire to explore beer halls: happy and warm where I am - and feel B. will guess why I haven't phoned.

P.S. Got 20 Marks each out of consul (about 2 pounds).

Memo: Munich better looking at night - tons of neon signs - in good taste. A further piece of snow sculpture - scene in a boat - amazing detail. Offensive Americans "fratting" openly with low girls. Admired "cute" motor scooters in window - about 150 pounds each.

{Sketch of female figure with following caption: Plaster figure insert in wall of bar - space behind - lit by 5 bulbs at different points. About 5ft by 4ft.}

### **Sun. Jan 18. 3.00pm - Munich Airport.**

Waiting to board plane - at last! Great joy that I may soon be with B. - if in time will phone in London.

Slept well. Up at 8.30am - out again to Bahnhof for rolls and coffee: very cold - rather empty town: many shops lit up - a few open. There are only a very few streets for shops - had good long walk round these. Food dear - clothes reasonable. Found 3 toy shops with really wonderful trains, cars to make up and other clever mechanical toys - all good price but reasonable. C. overjoyed and could scarcely be pulled away.

At 11.00am saw town clock figures pirouetting to chimes for 10 minutes. Made notes of train system for C. Then back to hotel for bus at 12.00 - off to airport. Had lunch - hung about - but plane did come - played with all the toys on all the stalls and spent our last marks. Now I do wish we were off - as I am most terribly anxious to catch 7.30pm train from Euston.

### **Later - 12.20am - Cumberland Hotel - bed.**

Plane at last got off - but from the first it was almost a forlorn hope. Rose through fog to 6500ft (good comfortable plane) - up into brilliant sunshine. Below us a flat sea of clouds - absolutely uniform - like a blanket of soft snow - as far as the eye could reach - all ways. This persisted without any variation whatever over all Europe and until the sun went down (which we watched): after that - the new moon - and cloud below. Pilot did his best - kept dead straight at 205 mph. I was absolutely "on eggs" for whole journey - as timing was "knife-edge" and I remained most anxious about B. Boys thoroughly happy - especially M. who was delighted with whole trip. Sweets and cotton wool were handed round at first. Later a box - beautifully wrapped - parcels inside - serviette, plate, sandwiches, sausage roll, slab of cake, biscuits, sweets, orange, apple. One could have anything to drink, tea, coffee, soft drinks, beer, any kind of spirits (all free). Boys had lemonade - I had black coffee - and felt better after second cup. Also offered and bought 25 Players duty free (2 pounds) - and offered beer, etc. and sweets later - but I was too anxious to eat.

On plane I arranged for "reception" to order a fast car and get quick clearance through customs and passport control. Beautiful landing at 6.20pm - all set at 6.30pm - but car driver said impossible - he needed 1hr 10mins. - so scrapped idea: found that no chance of getting train further north - no stops. Phoned Manchester - but only seats on plane in afternoon (which I booked) - thinking to go by 12.00 midnight sleeper to Manchester. Will see what B. says.

In by bus to Euston - arrived 8.30pm. (Cup of tea free at airport.) Various tedious enquiries about cancelling berths, availability of tickets etc. Considerable delay on phone (boys and John Cromie had tea in cafe while waiting) - got B. at last - ears still half deaf and buzzing from plane landing - but never heard anything sweeter than her voice and reassurance that all was well. She gave me courage to stay in London and come by Liverpool tomorrow evening. By now 9.30pm - discussed with Cromie where we should stay (?Southway - but far away). Had sudden brilliant idea of going to Cumberland - without phoning - so by tube (demanded by boys) to Marble Arch - in to Cumberland - looked crowded - but welcomed almost with open arms - got single room for Cromie and splendid big 3-bedded room for selves - with small dressing room off and usual bathroom - with beautiful big towels, lots of soap and every comfort. Straightened up the boys, washed, down for Horlicks, coffee and biscuits - up again - all bathed and here - at last - peace and rest in bed. Very warm.

### **Mon. Jan 19. Train - 5.15pm.**

Woke at 6.00am - did not sleep again - but felt well. Boys awake and bright at 7.00am. All had fine slow wash and baths - tidied - re-arranged boys - made up parcel for Moss Bros. - and down to breakfast 8.45am. All ate well - good breakfast - joined by John Cromie who was impressed by first stay in Cumberland. M. had puffed wheat and plaice - C. puffed wheat and sausage and beans. I cornflakes and kipper - rolls, coffee, chocolate, ?

Closed bags upstairs - down again - gave Moss Bros. parcel to hall porter, wired B. and off feeling brisk on dry lovely day to Selfridges: "did" the toys and the rest of the shop. Boys liked kitchen dept. almost best. Found that Formica can be had on thick 6-8 ply base to any size - but is brittle stuff alone and difficult to lay down with Bostick. If required Selfridges will get me any size or shape - fairly dear. "Warrite?" similar - not too nice. Saw a few interesting lamp shades. Note - especially close-fitting ceiling type.

Bus to Oxford Circus - down to Hambleys. Let boys have fill of gazing and playing. C. bought a small wagon for his train after endless deliberation! Over to Irish Travel Agency - could not book berths - but may get them on boat. Got plane seats from Manchester cancelled (good job - I believe they are grounded by fog again!). On down Regent Street - through Swan and Edgars - nothing new to interest B. and over to Brasserie at Lyons at 12.15pm for good lunch at 2/- each. Still well! Then to Simpsons - as M. wants to buy a target face for his bow and arrow with his 5/-. Great good luck to get shop-soiled full sized face of first grade canvas for 15/- - less than 1/2 price. Left it there to pick up later. Tube to Leicester Square - "did" bookshops on Charing Cross Road - including "Better Books" where I bought a couple of bargains - and Foyles where we bought a book for Colin - as we all felt he hadn't a sufficiently good present from Austria.

A few more shops - thought of going to Newsreel cinema - but time hardly sufficient - so had a quiet little tea in cosy in tea part of Monseigneur cinema at Picadilly - boys had ices - chatted - then at 3.30pm called for target face at Simpsons. M. clutched this to his bosom and didn't part with it till we got on the train! Called for bags at Cumberland. C. insisted on taking rucksack - I the bags - off by tube and got train in nice time. All feeling well.

Train off at 4.30pm - overjoyed! M. and C. have devoured some comics which I bought at the station for them - have explored all the lavatories and are now playing with C.'s motor? and reading Colin's present!

Train 8.30pm: Nearing Liverpool. Good journey: had good dinner and boys have travelled quietly: all well: so glad to be almost home and with B.

On Liverpool boat at 11.30pm: Train late - fog. Have learnt that all air flights have been cancelled! Safely on boat and got good cabins without difficulty. Tried to phone or wire to say boat might be late at Belfast - but efforts unsuccessful. Took children for Ovaltine and rolls - self coffee - and off to bed at 11.00. Shall turn in myself. Very happy: hope B. not kept waiting. [End of journal.]





Sport Hotel, Igls, Austria, in 2016



Post Office and Church in Main Square of Igls, Austria



Map of ski lifts and trails in Igls, Austria, in 2016





Cable Car station and view from same in Igls, Austria



Igls, Austria



Igls, Austria



*Igls, Austria*



*Igls, Austria*

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**Here, for reference, is my father's original journal:**



Thursday Jan. 1.

10:00 pm on boat.

Safely in our bunkers - the  
two boys quite happily reading  
together in top bunk.

Left home after lunch -  
shopped & got mail for cards &  
notes - left ourselves rather  
too much time - tea in  
Cottar's kitchen - to boat at  
6:45 pm - same boy & color  
boy - rather sad looking -  
boarded "Westerhouse" - clean

ship - good wood - appeared. We  
got a lovely 2-better cabin  
just beside his office -  
roomy. Washed. Met a  
lot of friends in various  
bunkers - Arby Tompkins -  
Paul Fry who used to play

for Colleagues - in Air  
Force uniform - just back  
from Br. away (S. Rhodes) -  
+ now posted to Wolverhampton  
How Tony blundered - positively  
splendid in uniform - just back  
from the East where he is  
S.P.O. (based on Longford) -  
asking for B!  
Saw ship safely out of  
dock - then went down  
for another feed: boy's hair  
clear orange coffee - toast -  
+ Michael "topped off" with  
large glass of milk - up to  
deck again - saw range  
of whitehead - beautiful  
clear moonlit night -  
so to bed - very

comfortably; boy's just  
settling down  
dining B! very much  
more: Range of wooden plant  
in dining lounge  
Mrs.: Jean looks as if  
wants a ball.  
Friday Jan 2  
Good evening: once I woke  
+ saw the moonlight  
shines on the sea - + the  
boys' stanning vaguely - I  
think they found it hist.  
Wakened with tea at  
6.30 am: washed  
dressed - + off in  
the dark rainier streets  
by bus at 7.30 am to  
line B!: daily informed  
the train - after finding

one (good) reserved seats -  
+ buying a couple of papers.  
Train off at 8.0 am. - +  
went immediately for  
breakfast. We had a  
reasonable "flem" breakfast  
for 3/2 each - became the  
bacon + egg course cost 2/6  
extra - + the boys voted  
against it - especially as  
there were good rolls + fair  
coffee. Early sort of head-  
wails - then he did himself  
out of a decent tip by (he  
thought) cleverly overpaying the  
change out of a £1 note so  
that it contained nothing  
less than 2/6.  
Weather clear - boy's had  
plenty to look at - so

time found early till London  
at 12.10 pm. Transfer to  
Southway Hotel (same room as  
B. + E had) -> break lunch -  
also B. - ice cream -  
Hampshire - tea at Lyons in  
Piccadilly - bought fruit for  
journey - Kibbory's shirt  
(which was rotten) - went  
theatre - bath + bed.  
Highlight was train dep. in  
Hampshire: London rather  
nice - fountain playing  
in Trafalgar Square - East  
away to be cleaned.  
Boy's well - + miss B!  
B! everything packed +  
in order for the morning.  
Sat. Jan 3. 9.45 pm.  
Belgian - from London: rather





mine - a few big new  
buildings. Classes #1 for  
f... (100% ready)  
+ had hot choc. (1/2) + cold (1)  
with 2 rolls in 3rd class  
cups for 2.00 M. (all 1/2=).  
cup of coffee run to cash  
about 1/2 = apples bread etc.  
all very dear. Time to go  
went for breakfast in hotel -  
cost abt. 30/- !!!

(for 90¢ - could get return  
and - hills in kind).  
Michael dropped a cup of toilet-  
brush tube - but we found  
it (with towel) under radiator.  
Carpenter inclined to be cold  
thanked by little coal stove  
at end. C. M. now  
watching attendance clock

it one.]  
Walked from station 2  
blocks to city center - but  
mostly north: trains with  
trailers: built nice clothes  
etc. in light - price not  
bad (the - boots abt. 6/-).  
Saw many interesting figures.  
Fair number of uniforms -  
mainly American, who are  
in formation.  
Hotel 10.00 p.m.

Reasons joining the mountain  
barricade - how shallow but  
fairly good - foggy - easy  
customs + passport control -  
to Kiptani: had changed  
train by having carriage  
attached to back of our train -  
walking into it - + then get

Planted to local train!  
Arrived Lumbank abt. 3.30 p.m.  
out to big house - up steep  
road (abt. 30 mins) to Ego -  
to hotel door.  
Before going to room, C. M. +  
E. looked up + got fat + c.  
broots + this? broots good -  
C. M. this excellent - M. +  
mine fairly good.  
Back for tea in cafe - bar -  
wash + dinner (soup, cabbage  
meal + salad, meringue + cream).  
Dogs had orange + banana  
(at was very dear - abt. 1.00/-)  
+ E. Kiptani a little of cheap  
wine). Upstairs, unpacked  
into bed - notes + feeling  
well.  
Have been feeling dull + a

Not easy to find - mine?  
more than 5 hours.  
Hotel quite simple -  
beautifully appointed - looks  
distinctly expensive - have  
to keep off stairs - the thing  
seems to have a special chop  
for us for our fat, for  
dinner etc. - only the food  
+ I + two others. But in  
the kitchen hotel + others  
are up in an annex, about  
5 minutes away - look  
abominably very comfortable.  
So far as I can gather,  
Kiptani is on the easy  
side.  
[Dinner - House Home - Kiptani  
- old + these - Kiptani said to  
be good for the - broots so.]

Boys have behaved  
extremely well so far -  
ate a very good dinner  
very nicely. I forgot to say that after  
tea we went out to  
walking, proper in shoes  
& Michael like most of us  
down: all kind well.  
Michael distinctly  
crestfallen when he saw  
they had a rest in room  
for him!! It is changed  
to a much - ok now.  
Monday Jan 21. Lounge 10.30 pm  
Boys asleep - house water to  
Boys - forty have gone off to the  
local club & hotel - the kitchen  
to drink & dance - little quiet  
lounge beautiful - soft lighting

by standard lamps - small  
table with gaily colored ash-  
tray: two big, wicker - iron  
tubs are tables - painted with  
Tupolea traditional designs.  
Long low wicker sofa with a  
middle, leaning plants. Books  
have big oil painting of winter  
& a few insect, beautifully  
dressed, adverts for things like  
pinetree, the boots, wicker -  
intelligently lit. Stagnant in  
innocent languages. Very fine  
soft dance music coming from  
the bar: it is luxurious in a  
cozy way, very soft lighting -  
rather of more modern music in  
and wall - but for behind  
for some dances - from sides  
& front for others: one condition

so no kids or bull, taking  
thing is to find the usual  
dogen people (mainly American  
& Italian) who seem to be  
always in bar & near the  
club on our holiday & I spoke  
to all American who has been  
a month here in this way -  
never out of a lounge chair -  
now outside the door (practically).  
Up fresh this am (awake  
& shaved before the boys woke -  
usual holiday habit!): good  
breakfast in another wooden  
breakfast room - boys had  
chocolate - I coffee - rolls  
very fresh - better - pain.  
Then out - I got a new & very  
fine pair of shoes from the  
black shop - so all to the

parts. Roger: got 9.5.51.  
a book of tickets each  
(20\$ for 30 pinner) for the  
town - they were delighted &  
later made excellent use of  
them: they went off to the  
only children's class (of 10) -  
& enjoyed it greatly - rather  
easy for them: the lady  
instructor seemed pleased  
with Michael particularly!! -  
liked his style. But I very  
happy to be the best there!  
I went to the class (of 8) -  
amusing & most intelligent  
instructor (Irish): class only  
four - contains an American,  
a Dane, a French girl, an  
Italian, a Polish, I English  
& me! Good & fairly easy



fun on excellent slopes  
for a beginner to learn -  
more than - but more  
pleasant. Doing Christmas  
mainly - my legs as a bit  
wobbly - but technique  
mainly good.

Picked boys up - down for  
lunch (ham with mustard  
sauce, then pork, a goulash,  
+ a cooked apple - (pottery):  
drinks + beer. Up to Mike -  
boys off a little walking  
expedition - on class took  
his (#8) + went up to first  
chair lift. (It can be reached  
by 20 min. easy straight up  
hill): got books of tickets for  
5 rides at 9¢: really  
comfortable boys of ski lift -

you put on skis + just let  
down when chair comes  
along - get off as for other  
ski lift: Fritz brought  
down again, participating in  
riding time - got again -  
down by different route (not  
far) + different places - up  
once more - + down on  
fairly fast run - back  
down + on down to 1st  
not difficult - + good rather  
quite fun (B. will be  
pleased to know in turning  
it easy). "Winkled" the boys  
away from their skis - + tried  
the "landhaus - Beck" (corner  
of the hotel near pasture) for  
tea: nice quiet place -  
but since now: however

much cheaper than here -  
+ closer, 1 tea, 3 highbrow  
cakes - 19.70\$. Well  
without music + dancing.  
Left Mike, then + wandered  
thru' hamlet village, looking  
at Mike's - small - nice -  
but too few: nice little  
ice - rink: houses pretty with  
painted signs + pictures on  
walls: one wall (gable)  
hung with strange-looking  
things which proved to be  
corn - on - the - cob.

A good wash - boys look  
well in colored shirts + "longs"  
+ ate food drink - boys  
on on table, most beef with  
flat chips; can't, female beer  
+ snow - wings covered with a

kind of pottery, then a  
plate of Amaretto cherries +  
butter: eaten with bread.  
I drank home wine, boys  
had a very nice bottle of  
orangeade each.

Read in lounge - today  
chatting to Michael asked what  
he had learned at ski school -  
M. replied "mostly how to fall".  
Up to bed, where boys wrote a  
note to B. while I did also.  
A bit lonely - but feel  
rested + healthy. Will go to  
bed now.

Tuesday Jan. 6. Lounge 10.30 p.m.

Woke up again before the  
boys came to life this am.:  
some sort of vague holiday  
(being "Twelfth Night") - so

new rolls but ordinary bread  
for breakfast: out - first to  
the bank (a rough & rocky sort of  
workshop) to get Michael a new  
pair of shoes - he had broken  
the leather "shoes" of one  
wheel. Collected this at  
Lombard-Rock where we left  
them last night. (It costs  
1\$ each in night to keep them  
in hotel the place - & not  
so handy). Boys enjoyed the  
morning & they went into  
woods & had fun dodging  
trees - & was the best in their  
class. (I bought them goggles  
yesterday - they're very fond of  
them). We practiced Kowich  
"climbers" - & were fairly  
lazy - talking mostly of

the jumping competition: at  
Bog-Tail in after - apparently  
it is one of a kind of form -  
the combined course being  
practically world-champion.

Fritz continued to be very  
amusing. I told him he was  
singing too much - he said,  
"If I sing too much, I die."  
If I do not sing, I die. So!!  
Again - "You do not say 'Hail  
Hille' with your hair - just  
lift it a little bit - and  
make an old instructor  
happy - please!" Again -  
"you do not <sup>have</sup> to watch  
music - always hear a  
beautiful melody in your ear -  
from their movement - and  
always in your life till

five minutes before you die -  
have got waiting in your ear  
when you die". A lady falls  
drowning helplessly to the  
side of her chair - he looks  
and says "Ah - she is the  
dying strain in 'Lobengrin'".  
Perhaps his last was when we  
were clanging down a slope  
yesterday doing blind turns -  
I kept up close - we stopped  
at the bottom & looked  
back at most of the others  
in various stages of disaster.  
He smiled - and said "Korea!"  
Lunch at no cost - but  
everything on (it's old watching  
jumping) - but at hotel door  
(return each 10\$) - down  
to Lumbard & to Bog-Tail on

the outside - a beautiful  
"fence" of a hill 700-800'  
high - starting but on  
top - bottom runs up to  
another line facing jump -  
excellent view: thousands  
there. Jumping rope till  
about 3:30 - 40 cabellars -  
each having two jumps.  
Standard was high - probably  
world's best jump - when  
by Arthur Brooke (from  
Head of shape) who had a hair  
of bad luck not to gain  
Olympic games - missed  
a hair - off v. fantastic  
having time in - jump  
at 70 meters. Badde's  
Olympic games used new  
technique - hands well



forward + not too far -  
like a glide - most of others  
used older arm pumping -  
one very good Juggler  
(James Bolden who was 40)  
used never-ending will  
dances look like bird wings.  
second place (close) to Honey  
3rd to Swiss. Swedes very good  
only one fell in the lot -  
+ very funny it looks  
but I think he was O.K.  
One striking feature - the  
"Loud Flap" of the Hawaiian  
singers. Andulana had  
injured man away immediately  
without ceremony.  
Then by bus - a bit cold  
about the feet. Arrived in  
bus by guide "Pudi" and his

knowledge of English songs +  
history. Told us Brigadier  
was a kind of "Battle of Hastings"  
in 1807 when Andros Hifer  
(a national hero now - a kind  
of Robin Hood) dared to hold  
out against Napoleon + actually  
defeated the French - his later  
betrayal + that.  
Beautiful view from bus on  
way up. Brenner pass (to  
Cortina etc.) lies just behind  
us.  
Home at 6:30 pm - dumped  
cameras - out for stiles +  
stayed till after dark. Then we  
took the Hotel from fort -  
but no dancing - store had  
gone "crazy" - but had nice  
resonant tea. Back to

Hotel at 6:30 pm - washed  
showered all over at the basin  
down for very nice dinner.  
Had intended getting boys off  
to bed early but head waiter  
insisted they go into the bar  
to see Gerald Tyndale dancing  
+ music - due to start at  
9.0 - didn't till 9.30. Boys  
thanked with all the drinks  
about them + by the "show"  
all in Tyndale costume - women  
high + men (singers + dancers) -  
+ 3 men - 2 with guitar-like  
instruments on tables - 1  
with a harp. Quite fun but  
a bit unsophisticated +  
uncheered - but authentic.  
Very sleepily up to bed at  
10 pm. I drank a local

Thompson's - made  
for fun. I.  
"hooter" - "skinner - something" -  
cost 6¢ - Michael wanted  
a Shag "like dancing + hilly" -  
but didn't get it!  
Very sleepy - enjoying the  
boys' company - but wish  
B. was here to complete us.  
Dropped card to Colin.  
Bed - had a dream nearly 10 am  
First big snow - getting late  
from B. before breakfast -  
first of last Friday! we all  
stayed in over + over - made a  
great difference - to have  
established a new record.  
But so much the less fun.  
Have already typing the  
mountain tips before breakfast  
(maybe just because it  
is better!). Roll's coffee.

chocolate again - out to  
classes - less clothes on.  
C.M. have friends - 2  
class - some were like a  
game to them now - largely  
enjoying it. I saw M. Thomas  
don't a huge champion for  
friend - possible med-  
ical cases on his feet - but on his  
feet - small feet & all.  
With 157 cases have been  
the delight on his face -  
he didn't know I was  
looking. C. - as was - was  
individual - but driving  
very pleased with life. The  
beardier even moment of  
fear - held up a 150 to get  
them in to make it.  
Our class practicing

control of handwriting &  
so on - not very dramatic  
but good for art. Billy was  
asleep as to place the 150  
settling in the snow after a  
fortnight or two - one girl  
had a good "edge" which  
tracked the snow - so he  
would be for handwriting  
& said "look at this trace."  
It will remain for the next  
generation - & the next -  
and in a thousand years  
they will put up a  
monument to this trace,  
saying "this was so - and -  
so did a 'Ham-Christiana'".  
Main "I do not wake for the  
money. I like to see a little  
of what I say come out in

your thinking. And when it  
comes out, I die. I  
die in the morning, and I  
die again in the afternoon."  
Love lunch - Richard found  
a second batch of money -  
the snow on the way to the  
hotel. Boys got 10¢ each  
from me - & went by bus  
to chair lift - up on chair-  
lift & back a down home.  
Billy took on class - now  
numbering five - on a  
"long jump" - first up in  
cells - as to the way station  
(Holloway) - down the  
woods - over broad fields  
of soft snow - foot mess -  
a fair amount of walking  
then dodging the 150 quite

thick fines - out to field  
again & so to 150. - rather  
tired - been going down -  
but he'll be really  
happy. The 150 was  
out of language  
from the rest of us - but  
happily, I had the idea  
that the night 150's lunch  
found the 150, & chattered  
away to us in fine style,  
interrupting for the other 150.  
The 150's in the 150's  
is a little, but appears  
& somewhat difficult.  
Equally good in a place  
(many others) is Sabata -  
much also after.  
After class collected tip  
bags for tonight (deposition).

I left the 2 to be waked -  
badly in need of it - I was  
lucky apt. to this small hotel.  
Found Michael - C. under  
about - came to 1455 &  
found him in bed in taxi.  
He had with him his trousers  
and his shirt - nothing  
that could do a lot for right  
easily - I fixed him up  
with a few good tea & big glass  
with last chance to the  
landlady - back (19.703) -  
home - dinner at 7.0 -  
finished my wine -  
for everything on back  
Kilco - Steve & out to  
Cable car (with boys) at  
8.15 PM. Up to make  
Station - changed to after

car (fare 8.50 each) -  
got off at by the railway  
up to the small light for  
below - 1/2 hour light.  
Climbed to little (another -  
the Eagle - a lot of  
bunches of things but not  
much - I am all but of  
long - boys' great beer  
at 10 green bottles -  
ended with Tip & drinking  
song "La Haine" - at  
each mouth in the song  
the persons from in their  
mouth stand up on a post  
or table. All glasses are  
first filled. You must  
not drink till standing  
up & then only when  
Chorus comes: the chorus

continues till the person  
standing up has drained  
his glass - then continues  
by everyone drinking  
down & showing  
back from side to side.  
M. was drinking because  
by standing up with  
red & cooler & then sleep  
eye & alone 26 spoons  
of wine - & drinking  
when "July" came. At  
the end of the song the  
party is over (good way  
to end a party). Our  
lightning glasses &  
cola - transferring our  
with boys - but they  
were very good - great  
reference - fine words.

Now, I had, damps -  
drinking light & below  
a few times. M. went  
with Austrian boy for last  
mile or so - made it  
easier for me. Home -  
hardly leaving - on shore  
of midnight. Put boys  
into bed - finished a note  
to B. & then bed myself.  
Time - 7.15 jump -  
but last night - too B. -  
sudden sleep, followed  
coming into deep "V" - neck  
& left black, just light  
black.  
Also local Austrian is  
"Guss Post" - but also originally  
"Guss". name shrines  
smell of aromatic wood -



smoke coming in under  
 every morning when I wake up.  
 Thirst. Water bottle 10:00 PM. 8th

Weather still again - light  
 frosty morn - but very  
 pleasant. Later early as usual -  
 now the worse - shaved -  
 under the boys about 8-45 AM  
 & down to another good hair-  
 fast. are his in a corner part  
 of bow window & watch birds  
 on outside while we eat.

Took large back (hair = 5¢) -  
 picked up hair - now well-  
 washed - & all to practice paper.

Did well on the "pencil"  
 test " (a pencil of a bill) -  
 Fritz seems pleased tho' - in  
 a nice way - he can be  
 frightfully cutting. "An old

master of K'i-ing has to bend to  
 make this turn - but we  
 English (his eyes close - close  
 himself up & etc.) do not  
 bend - we do not have to."  
 Also - on the subject of bending  
 knees - he walks over  
 conspicuously & feels a body's  
 leg - kneeling - "There must  
 be - do look carefully -  
 there is no other explanation.  
 There must be a K'i K'e's  
 down your trouser leg,  
 motion." Boys still very  
 happy in class - except  
 about now were girl who  
 is always falling "!! They  
 really enjoy the K'i-ton -  
 & were immensely pleased.  
 when I "Came off" - I was

practicing balancing on  
 separate feet & putting floor  
 on at same time - but  
 both were delighted that  
 "Daddy fell!!" he's  
 always bent to leave the  
 K'i K'i for lunch. Was  
 talking to French man & lady  
 from Paris - recommended  
 Legats (near George) as being  
 reasonable & good. Later  
 has the hair. bit in  
 clean hair. Daves wonderful  
 but frightfully offensive.

Had lunch - can now guess  
 fairly closely what food is  
 going to be for meals (lunch  
 & dinner always 4 full  
 courses - delectable food).  
 All up together by bus to

K'eligwan, chairlift - fixed  
 C.M. up with tickets for  
 two sides each - went up  
 first time with them - then  
 separated. Went cross  
 country with Fritz in guess  
 direction of house - but then  
 he changed his mind - & we  
 set off for K'eligwan: very  
 varied & interesting K'i-ing -  
 long gentle fields with  
 occasional big dips (boulders  
 visible in river) & soft hair -  
 then hair & there really keep  
 brown. When we got going &  
 Fritz lifted up the front I  
 think like a dream - & he  
 seemed very pleased. One  
 however when looking  
 back at 2 or 3 coming down

dangerously "what you  
call those - those Japanese  
suicide bombers?"  
Bill - with next class down  
quite good this - near end.  
I think they wanted to know  
of - he does instructs to  
follow him thro' a hedge  
(literally - just like a Irish  
thorn hedge - you nose almost  
had to touch the thorns to get  
over + through) - + down  
on immediately following  
hellish steep slope of broken  
ground. He yelled back "come  
on" - so I charged through  
+ slid down like a dream  
a hour of night + left step Christie  
at the bottom - + watched  
many other members of both

classes coming to follow  
grief. As we, I do better if  
going like boys - with me  
time to think.  
he came to big place. In  
from the on at back of  
humble - to find we had  
missed 4.30 pm train + bus -  
so went to local "Hotel  
Schonach" - small clean  
house - + shared a bit of  
hot red wine among the  
right. It was (total = 30 \$).  
First taught us game of  
hitting + catching beer mugs  
at edge of table. Then a  
mile to train - + back to  
light (2.10 \$). Arrived 5.30 pm  
- feeling very fit - but  
worried about boys who

had to meet us as usual  
at about 4.30 pm. Pushed  
up + found them very  
sensibly at hotel, having  
put their away. Both looked  
a trifle worried "he thought  
maybe there had been an  
accident today, + was  
worried about you". He  
was extremely sweet +  
unselfish - and also  
made me feel somewhat old!  
They must have had a very  
lonely hour knocking about  
on the 1st floor - + waiting.  
So make up - even the last -  
he set out for tea - but main  
event was finding out the  
letter from B? (postmarked  
Monday) - delighted - we

divorced it over tea. I read it  
out - when I found the  
would say in a trance-like  
voice "Be on, 30.00".  
But first we looked in photo  
window (photo already taken)  
+ saw good photo of ourselves.  
Went into Kettnerhof hotel -  
looked big outside - but  
obviously a local "dw".  
Other gathered round drinking  
beer + listening to an old  
fellow playing rather well  
on a small harp. Had  
quite good tea, chocolate + 2  
cakes - rightly deserves the  
Landschau - Beer (25.00 \$).  
One of the diners brought  
round water - clean for  
sale at 40 \$ each. We

rather liked them - picked  
out 2 - & offered him a  
English £1 for them - he  
accepted - & we bore them  
home in triumph - they're  
rather nice.

Boys are ready for dinner while  
I changed nearly fresh in bag of  
Columbian dirt.

Good dinner - boys ate well -  
M. had cider, C. the usual way,  
& I beer. Lot of chat - read  
a while in lounge - & at  
nine - planned into bar at  
start of "a delight Ball" -  
candles on wicks floating in  
oil in bottom of glass "stems".  
Have C. a washdown at basin -  
both sleeping to bed - & come  
down to lounge to write this.

Perhaps I originally under-rated  
Ighs - boys loved the news  
down this afternoon - "two  
new news, daddy" - or  
maybe I just feel better now  
that I've heard from B. -  
but quite frankly I look  
forward to going home as I've  
never done before. Just write  
to B.

Room: light switches 10" up  
for "on": no tick-in in  
bottom or sides of bed clothes  
(usual big mattress things on  
top): almost square small  
oil paintings of mountains &  
pleasant - in bedroom &  
bathroom - simple, broad,  
strong - very satisfying &  
decorative.

Friday - Bedroom - 11.0pm - 16 JAN

light. low open - but not  
objectionable - closer but  
was almost gone through. It  
never has been cold.  
Class as usual. Boys very  
happy in their - ? is it  
because they won all the  
races? M. was first in 1st  
race this am. - 4th in 2nd  
race - but says he got off  
to a bad start: C. was 2nd  
in both races - & very  
sympathetic about M's bad  
start which he complains.

Friday in hill of a mood (for  
some reason) - so  
class a bit haywire. The  
boys sticky - & going in  
flour - but - the rain

nothing new - I enjoyed  
it. A feature of the school  
is what they call "the  
second breakfast" - a  
series of very good preliminary  
studies done by whole  
school standing in circle -  
in middle a different  
instructor each morning.  
Quite hard work, but very  
sensible spaced, instruction  
on the whole very good - but  
would not be really good  
for the beginner - but maybe  
he wrong there - for these  
beginners the next I can  
very happy - and  
accidents as almost  
non-existent - certainly  
nothing like the first



cakes (e.g. none since we came - apart from a crunched shoulder).

Met boys a little earlier than usual - & strolled quietly to nearby High Church (at Mr. Requist's) - I bought a cake of wax for the kids (x.40 \$). Also bought two little "pocket-books" for 1.50 \$ each.

A good lunch - talked of going to Innsbruck - but decided to put it off till tomorrow - & went up - washed this - but - when Fritz is decidedly better from. Told me of capturing (as a child) snakes, woodpeckers, a hawk, & squirrels - & 5 fawns kept them at home - but

freely - except the hawk - which would have flown off altogether - so he had a tree in his room for it.

Went to Charlitz - gave boys 10 - they had a couple of rides & some "loggers" of mine apparently. We set off at yesterday - rather early going towards Innsbruck - but ended at a small station called Adnan's, & got home at 4.0 PM (for 1.80 \$). Enjoyed it. One nice - cake for Fritz - a girl (we are now 6 in all) handed herself a couple of times on a rope - "we play hide-and-seek".

Picked boys up at Hotel -

looked this - back to hotel for traveller's cheques - found yet another letter from B.T. - all greatly thrilled.

Called in tourist bureau - a delightfully decorated house - big bronze handless on door - big paintings on walls - & got some Austrian cash.

Found photographer once more - so washed fast ice-cream (small - a dozen photos - good - with music)

& on to Charlitz for tea. It is about size of Sheraton Hotel - beside railway terminus - rather out of the way for skiing. Pleasant, fairly bourgeois - most comfortable & quiet tea-bar - with

only 5 others there - & a 3-piece band. Good usual choc. & tea - with small biscuits. (23.50 \$) - & read B.T.'s letter - & read French & German magazines & back to our hotel.

But the band (3 piece) is absolutely first-rate for dancing - a bit noisy - & played from about 4.0 till 6.30 + 9.0 till (even later) when.

Dressed lazily - drink - gave boys their fish (small) glass of white wine - or didn't drink much - C. finished his, talked a good deal - & sat till 9.0 in the bar - at Mr. Requist's



which he admired the corker on all the bottles (like the Louis ones). Off sleeping to bed by 9.15.

Went out in lamplight streets to get a few photos - only took one - cluttered to a couple of men in lounge - felt so sleepy that I came up to bed.

A pleasant, gentle day.

Memo

Facets of water running here & there - often into troughs made by hollowing out a big tree-trunk.

Several new houses going up here & there - often perched on pinnacle of small steep hill -

Left completely open & unfinished till Spring comes.

Fritz told me that about April here we can go up & see a nice snow on north slopes of Patscherkofel - say in morning - & play tennis - or better in warm lake (Lanzersee) in afternoon (idea for a holiday?).

Memo: Excellent pair of shoes bought by dad in Innsbruck for 300 \$ - Fritz says its about usual price. (Complete with Kandahar bindings).

Memo: Decoration idea - large face - mask - eyes & nose & mouth cut out - red paper mounted - roughly

fainted - whole thing could be our wall-fitting light (say at Christmas).

Also large conical shade - coming up to point at top (no escape of light) - made of fairly heavy stuff - on a rather low standard lamp. Ref. also wrote notepaper as model for own (design & size).

Sat. - lounge - 10.30 PM. WKSAN. These hours - but quite pleasant - not blinding - & cleared now & then is a bit wet & sticky for Fritz.

Called after breakfast & got photos & posted them off home (later) in Innsbruck - off to Minskot - Fritz in better humor - but soon after that took us to the

quintessence (top of Patscherkofel) - good position - handy - sort of big & comfortable guest house) - we had to drink a glass of red wine to celebrate the quavours & tragic loss of his pipe yesterday evening! After that lesson was easy & ended with "Have a good night" - which ended in bar of Hotel - where I was joined by C. & M. : drank an Amos Peon & Wood Fritz a drink (total 20 \$) - then a good lunch.

At 2.15 caught local train (or tram) for Innsbruck (bought by Fritz - total - whole way 4.40 \$) rather lovely run down - change at Berg Isel for train into city

ante (Olav Thorsen's home)  
wandered around under  
shelving. Rather pathetic -  
obviously for poor footprints -  
blitz hits - & old for an  
building? interesting -  
but from lovely Austrian  
artistic touches (e.g. huge  
archway as low threshold -  
tall & cheap & wrought-iron  
gate etc.). Bought one or two  
cups & saucers - had  
3 cups of excellent coffee,  
3 rolls & piece of cheese (no  
butter to be had) for about  
25¢ in the Nation Café (new).  
Found Paderborn's Pub -  
& bought excellent pair of  
his boots for 540¢: many  
as cheap as soap - but not

such good value: made  
fellowship inquiries about  
ferrets & pocket - bought M.  
nice pair of canvas shoes -  
afternoon gone - so train  
back in dark. Boys seem  
completely content - but C.  
somewhat nettled at absence of  
any real toys (e.g. train)  
in Austria (as I found at  
Bad Tschell).

All had big baths - washed  
boys hair - & ate excellent  
dinner. C. thoroughly  
approves of business - Kartoffel  
pat in long bar (usual) till  
first time was played - but  
dinner came in first &  
played from first &  
wonderfully - at. greatly

impressed at his versatility.  
C. rather more impressed by  
boys' made from bottle of  
liquor! We boys into bed - & finished  
note to B. - miss his family.  
Mum's Boys have looked well  
in being in white shirt &  
long - have well-plastered  
down etc. Have picked up  
a surprising number of good  
moments at table - & we  
have wonderful conversations  
about everything under the  
sun! They're picking up  
quite a bunch of German  
vocabulary too. Still - do  
with B. we had - or I will  
her - otherwise everything  
is enjoyable - but only

enjoyable - not an exciting  
adventure: Still I feel rested  
in mind & body - & think I  
needed this.

Sunday - Jan. 11th - 9.30pm.

Party all went to "Trolchot"  
for dance last night. Dressed  
id better but in appearance -  
not to appear "stuffy" - so  
went out about 11.30 - but  
smoke & noise terrific, & did  
not feel like joining & dancing.  
Sat for an hour chatting -  
danced twice & came home  
at about 12.30: party went  
on till 4.0!

Now again this am.: got  
this washed - new boots for  
admissibly - as if I'd worn  
them all my life. Snow

beautifully soft + flowing -  
practised long swinging  
flow turns - + mainly by  
watering part of cross-  
country race (Langlauf):  
race is 18 km. - they do it  
in about 1 hour.

Good lunch: would have gone  
up to Pöschkehofel - but thought  
it better to keep away from  
hundred yards from the border  
to the higher hedges of Iglo +  
some Kadenhofel, + took bus up  
to Chaussee as usual: all  
morning + afternoon C. M.  
have had lady Kai with us  
all to themselves - they had  
a couple of good ones - we  
went off towards Pöschke -  
through village now -

thing of times but very  
lovely - + good practice for  
soft snow work: then just  
trying to break this +  
occasionally mountains  
appear thru' weathering clouds.  
Paw up towards Bismarck pass,  
also up Stübaital (could be  
one of its glaciers). Pöschke  
village, Mutter etc. below us.  
Lunch with fast class this  
deep soft snow - very fluffy.  
Boys were playing on a  
jump when I found them -  
+ doing very well at it (widow  
+ mother): had a few fairly  
good jumps myself.  
Then to Pöschkehofel Pension  
for tea: small, clean, friendly,  
quiet - probably inexpensive.

but tea was dearer yet (tea,  
two chocolate, + large cakes  
[50¢ each] - total 27.00 \$). Near  
local railway station. Fairly  
handy. Incidentally found  
out that Fritz keeps a piano  
the Pöschke, so after tea  
already dark, we strolled  
round + found it - rather  
out of the way for Pöschke -  
but beautifully placed on  
edge of valley - fine view  
seemed nice from outside.  
Fritz has 3 daughters about  
our boys' age - if we stayed  
there, they could be together.  
Home with lots of time to  
do for dinner: rearranged  
inside clothing - M. wrote  
a l.c. to Clayton Olvie - I

washed a pair of boots (more  
for amusement than need).  
Showed M. how to get impressions  
of coins on silver paper.  
Dinner excellent - I drank  
water (as we do now always at  
lunch). Food has been quite  
delicious - lots of it. Boys  
specially thrilled because  
"fudding" is so often in form  
of an elaborate "gâteau" of  
some sort. We usually take  
about 3 1/2 hours for dinner -  
which is phenomenal for  
C. M. Chat at our table  
still good. We change  
places with each other now  
+ then: it is a cosy corner.  
Good view - written in  
envelopes. - food beautifully



and - usually as a central dressed dish for me to decide, waiter & waitress most pleasant & attentive - forming out one's drink & so on. They took about advising me on cost of 1000 drinks, etc.

Read magazines in lounge for 1/2 hour - then up to bedroom. Showered C.M. house to play "Noir ha'penny" on glass topped bed table - then let them into bed - they're just now prone to sleep.

I went out for a moment to finish a coin on the cob from a local girl for M. Lining's over on clean, fresh & lovely - lamplight on sparkling snow - small

village peaceful - sharply cold.

Still dull without B.Y. - but feel "healthy" if not quite contented. Shall drop her a note & turn in.

Memo: Paid wine bill last night - total for week 111. \$.

Open falling transport Hedges quite small.

Pleasant, bill - ringing at each hour from local clocks.

Just remembered that "Engelstein", from where we started telegramming, isn't primarily a greenhouse but the "hill-station" of a farm in the valley - up to which the cattle (& the farm) moves.

When dinner comes & the hour departs upwards.

Monday - 12th - Room 10-47

Clear day - fair ant. in morning. Boys were "boating" (too tired yesterday) - to their thing of a bit.

Breakfast made excellent by getting a letter from B. the. He seems depressed not to have got any letters yet. In so long that this post business is always to be asked from him. The only relation is for him to be here.

Took camera (black & white roll) out this am. - took some happy and shots on practice slopes. Possibly no good without colour. Boys & keep

worked fairly hard: he in snatched.

Good lunch: off to cable railway for Pitschi's hotel - boys going also (with instructions). Was advised for our forty from 14.00 to 8.50 (48 for the hotel).

Took still camera. Exciting ride up (to 7,000'): talked to Dutch girl on way, who has lived at Berwang & Chamonix. Says Berwang only for beginners - very long - only 3 hotels - one small Swiss town as on practice slopes here. Says Chamonix experience but does not seem to think it excessively so: stayed also at small place near Chamonix (? same).

Incidentally some members of party not familiar with a Adelboden - ~~could~~ long distances to lifts - & queues at lifts etc. Some people loved Juvos & the lacem.

Beautiful wall of mountains across valley above Interlaken. Very cold at top: Brigitation not attractive - big - utilitarian - prices of drinks etc. high. Saw a little in cafe to avoid the others coming up. Boy down on down.

Then over. Entry took us at first off the piste this deep powder snow - though heavily laden pine woods - beautiful - but cold - then

down (23° frost): then it became apparent that only way down was through a kind of path cut in the woods. This was so beaten down that in parts (especially "The Gully") fine ice showed through in sheets. Impossible to ski on this - so one just "spraggled" down. I came down well - but at one part ice gave way & when I fell near my feet body on ice & this head out did not prevent my sliding down hill for about 30 yds. No real danger or difficulty - but not at all pleasant. One or two in our party were

obviously scared stiff - so we waited endlessly for them - & got cold.

Finally when we reached top of lower chairlift 1125 ft we got the only really good run of the afternoon - glissade bashed across & across with forced "skiddies" the whole way. & to down to practice moves where I found C. M. had arrived 1 1/2 hours before me. (I was down at 5.15 pm. - but must have spent about that time waiting for others). C. M. thoroughly happy to have done the run - & seemed to have done it well. Personal information -

not a good man - too many "lanes" at top - only good bits are within reach of lower chairlift. Except at top - views largely obscured by trees.

Since we were so late - we had tea in our bar - with 3 cakes. Cost us "the moon" (tea & chocolate 21¢ : cakes 14¢). But warm, companionable, good music & danced twice. Instructress there with her own little girl, who asked H. to dance but he was too shy!

Boy's talk to later (? who) about Japan etc. - & about some Japanese words.

Then up for wash - & down  
for good dinner. Boys  
pleasantly sleepy - so took  
coat for a five minute  
stroll outside. - picked  
a corn-on-the-cob (to take  
home to Mummy!) - &  
in to bed at 9.30 p.m.

Drank in, like red wine (or  
at dinner). [Local name for  
hot red wine is "glasseine"]  
Sat in lounge making French  
newspaper (to let boys get  
over to sleep) - then up  
myself. Shall turn in  
soon - but must write  
first to you.

Tuesday - 10.45 p.m. - lounge. 13th Nov.  
Forecast morning - but well  
& coffee & chocolate as welcome as

ever! Out to practice shop -  
new people in class (Canadian).  
& children's class now up to 4.  
Saw nice - did nothing  
very pleasant - but felt well.  
At 10.00 am. talked to instructors  
of class. - full of praise for  
their run from last school  
yesterday: also told me that  
she had herself been up there  
this morning - & that there is  
brilliant sun up above a sea  
of cloud - the best of them  
down!!

Whole school going skiing  
this afternoon - but as it  
is along road - it didn't  
sound particularly worthwhile  
(as in fact it apparently  
turned out to be) - so we

decided since lovely sun just  
came out at lunch, to get  
some colour cine - so out  
after lunch for a hour -  
took Cass, a practice shop  
etc. - finished 5.0 - then  
backed this & off to 3.15 p.m.  
train for Innsbruck. - in  
up to 3.45 then bitterly cold.  
Called in bank & found out  
about savings account (easy  
& one gets 4% interest!).  
Then off to Hotel Kitz where we  
had the good luck to get the  
pantry & kitchen (each under  
£4) - also pair of gloves as  
present for Colin.  
Wanted badly to buy by a  
simple nightgown but both  
boys so strongly disapproved

that I was put off my stroke  
& didn't! They want a  
biquini set hanging on iron  
frame! Bought really a  
better brooch & inserted  
into one or two quite elegant  
shop as had missed before -  
beautiful use of plate glass  
"morned" to wood & bronze in  
big & interesting shop: this  
especially true of glass - was  
shops. Still no story about!

Found typical Austrian  
café in Museum House - had  
big cakes that were almost  
too thick & rich even for C.!!  
Used hot chocolate with large  
mountain of cream on top.  
I had tea - all round  
with the addition of a glass



of used water which was  
renewed when finished: lots  
of magazines etc. (Cost 29¢).  
Found a few really big & most  
thick in Museum. One  
interesting full-size for lady -  
golden yellow round body,  
black sleeves, black 3/4" cuffs  
round the sides of two  
pockets, black neck.

Then train at 6:15 p.m. for  
Lghs - somewhat huffy with  
people getting home from  
business - bitterly cold  
outside. C. & I talked politics.

Dined - trip dinner - with  
beer & orangeade - & sat in  
box to see & hear more  
Tupolean dances & a singer:  
boys enjoyed it. Lady

nearly greatly admired their  
gay shirts & belts. Dressed  
a "skirt" - & so sleepily  
up to bed.

Lots, I talked in lounge to  
Blattner, who was a  
tropical medicine specialist  
in Army during war - knew  
Jacksonian etc.

A man today said he had  
bortomia & that it was funny  
& near to V. Monty - if you  
wished to go in.

Wednesday - Bed (!) - 9:15 p.m.

woke at 7:30 a.m. & boys  
throbly after: darkness just gone  
& sun coming up. Before we  
had finished dressing it  
had tipped all the mountain  
tips a beautiful rose. Dressed

lazily - wearing new trousers:  
found window hard to shut -  
freezing had - ice "flowers"  
on the inside of the panes.  
[Although the bedroom has  
some double doors, the windows  
are single].

Good breakfast (no lifts for  
for). Out by 9:30 a.m. - bitterly  
cold (actually 15° below  
freezing point). No one on  
steps but ourselves - our  
thumbs especially were most  
painfully cold - M. shed a  
few tears, even. But warmed  
up with glucose. Cold  
continued a bit about 11:00 a.m.  
when sun was actually  
shining on us - & clothes  
went off well - & boys were

practically very warm & happy.  
We fractured mainly turning  
with use of the stick of  
difficult slopes.

Hacked trail on sunny wall  
of little hut at bus-stop -  
collected rail camera - took  
a few Kodachromes. C. &  
M. took a "shot" each!

Particularly good lunch  
(main dish a banana one  
of pork, ham, sausages,  
sauerkraut etc.).

Boys went off by car to  
Heilig cross church where  
they enjoyed themselves.  
We went up by cable car to  
Katzschberg: cold & but  
brilliant sun on tops.  
Only took us round the



mountain thus deep  
lovely snow drifts - sparse  
faintly white laden with  
soft snow in huge "dollops"  
& magnificent views of  
Brenner pass, & the Tyrol  
mtns. (Sates, Hinkai etc.) &  
tiny villages in the valleys  
(Hates etc.).

Across valley beyond Inns.  
I saw Seequie in the first  
glances of him this am - &  
it continues to get him all  
day long. It is a big hotel  
on a high shelf - reached by  
railway from Inns. - possibly  
8, or 9000 feet up - in the  
snow: another "lift" goes on  
up to Hafelekar above it -  
the climb looks difficult.

It would be worth going up  
(+ down) from Inns. - if time  
permitted.

Down in soft snow then  
trees - no fast runs -  
then I think Fritz got  
confused for he took us on  
botolph run down to Hafele.  
- quite well - performance -  
thing impossible on icy  
mtns - actually ended by  
"riding on sticks" - never  
was so hot about the things.  
With delay of administration  
in Inns. we were tied a  
long way from home when  
he went down at 4:00 pm.  
Next how was frightful -  
cold intense - fingers,  
ears - everything frozen.

last patch & along fairly  
flat country - I think -  
some pretty houses - but  
improving difficult -  
agony of cold - finally home  
at 5:15 pm - having done  
a lot of tanning but  
practically no skiing!

Ears deaf with cold when  
I met boys in hotel. Put  
on white breathers for first  
time & had most gratifying  
tea in the hotel bar -  
boys ate gigantic cakes -  
beautifully slowly! - &  
drank their usual chocolate.  
After an hour we were all  
thoroughly thawed out -  
so up at 6:30 pm to dress  
largely for dinner. The

others to an outdoor toboggan  
run tonight - but we are  
wisely waiting for comfort.

At powerful dinner -  
Ears & nose, hot, venison  
with chemicals & lemon,  
croquette potatoes, Gorgonzola  
after it - & little Red  
wine.

Hours, the waiter, most  
kindly left the boys a  
Ray Rogers comic & a couple  
of illustrated papers, which  
we read quietly in the  
lounge. All voted for bed at  
9:00 - & we all got in -  
& now the two boys are  
already sound asleep!  
I'm nearly asleep myself.  
Find new boots & trousers &

a delight to Kai in.

Talking to London boy who stays in Innsbruck & travels up each day for Kai in. Distinctly cheaper (looked thru Austrian travel agency) stays in very good hotel, the Central - has bed & breakfast for 30 \$, bath 10 \$, day's attention excellent. Has some sort of coupon for food in restaurants - but finds this much cheaper than here. Travel up by train costs only 2.50 \$ each way. I like the idea. Used Kai's st. down there. Would have advantage that we could go up to Bergame easily.

Also Fritz seems quite sure that I <sup>could</sup> ~~just~~ do some ski-tours - at any rate, one or two day tours. Keep in mind for future - perhaps with C. Must keep.

Thursday - 9.11 pm. - Brown

He letter from ST this am - so don't know yet for certain that he has heard from us in light!

Woke early - but boy & even Kiefer (from mail - awake at 8.30 am. : beautiful morning - saw mt. tops go from grey to pink to bright gold to white. Boys delight that we shall be by ourselves & do as we like & when we like. After breakfast went to shop &

explored: found fascinating corals - bought one - & a few other small odds & ends.

Packed in case & camera - wore black ski-blouse - very comfortable & warm - big moving pockets. In spite of sun, thick with in air. Up to cable car at 10.30 am. - & went up to Haligwasser Station. Brilliant view across valley. Tracks of deer's feet on snowy fields below. (saw woodpecker yesterday in woods).

Set off on run towards Inns. : boys interestingly fascinated by walks & "skittles" thru pine-trees - & quite overjoyed by long thrilling run (about 2 miles) across

dipping fields into the valley: got the odd photo: didn't warn them about the big dips (sort of "nets") each falling 8'-10' - & were full of "holes" that I was trying a "fast one" on them. They took this section at a terrific speed - straight - going was difficult. Soft snow of a few days ago has been beaten hard - & recent cold has iced the top - so falls are inevitable.

Final section is sheer icy drop or two - Really appreciated - espec. by C. Both doing amazingly well. Came down so fast that we decided we could catch the



11.45 took one of lunch  
at Adams - + did so -  
to back in excellent time  
for lunch: brilliant sun.  
The wall - discussed plans.  
out again for 2.0 pm. called  
car to take station. Boys  
stayed down to get chairlift  
while I stayed to take time:  
followed this with a few  
descents - up again by  
chairlift till our trunks were  
done.

Letting cold at 3.0 pm. -  
"Get out again for same down  
hill run - but went  
further - to Klosser's  
+ managed to get 2.00 pm.  
train for Inns. at local  
station (Klosser). Again

the run was noted as  
"mashing". It was on outside  
platform on way home -  
admiring radio masts of  
Radio Innsbruck, the small  
battering place at Malssee  
(with canvas) + the bridge on  
at Lamssee. Both looks as  
if they could be very gay in  
summer - climbing cafe's  
etc. (all that now).

Home. Stopped in railway  
shop - bought 2 more coats -  
+ one or two trinkets, looked  
at them. Cold in valley tho.  
Sun still on peaks, Stubai  
Alps, Sengsberg etc.

Polished (at last) into Roth  
where we saw the happen, see  
bought it at last - also

city lights. Boys then decided  
that - to celebrate their run  
I ought to buy them tea  
again in Post Hotel - though  
it is expensive - to wash  
a bit - + down for really  
big cakes, chocolate, tea.  
Drinking tea - asked by lady to  
have a look at her twisted ankle.  
Not too late - the boys, Malssee  
+ Trödelshof both chairlifts than  
have - + few chairs (2.00 for  
breakfast in bed): boys food  
better there.

Boys' great favorite with bar-  
man, who "serves" a table for  
them when they come in! -  
also with Hans. Also also -  
old maid-servant on our  
condo who always feels to

stroke their chairs as they  
pass - having "schöne".  
Didn't dance - much to  
my disgust! For about 10.00  
B.M. up for good wash. Boys  
refuse to put on clean under-  
clothes!

At tea, boys' instructions came  
over to chair - gave me her  
address in hopes that I  
might find her the odd  
photograph. Address is:-

ERIKA HIRTZ

WIEN XIX

AGNESGASSE 2.

Before dinner, chatted alone  
how camera works. Down  
at 7.30 pm. for good feed -  
C. now armed with  
dictionary to help with men

Drank beer to boys' campade.  
 But in the afternoon. Boys  
 helped woman to light candles  
 for candlelight dance tonight.  
 "Candles" very cute. They are  
 various brands of drink bottles  
 sawn off just below neck,  
 leaving labels etc. on. Then  
 an inch of two of inside is  
 filled with candle-wax, &  
 a wick in the middle. This  
 alone would do - but in fact  
 bottles are filled with  
 sauce. Must try this one.  
 About hotel various lamp-  
 shades worth copying. One is  
 wide disc - above light -  
 with long cone-shaped shade  
 below. Wrought iron ones  
 difficult to copy - but

the effect from ceiling  
 could be copied: flux of  
 light is wound round with  
 coarse wire - & "knots" at  
 either end.  
 - Came downstairs to bed.  
 Boys get over to sleep. Band  
 playing away in bar -  
 80% - good dance music.  
 Today saw small "blob"  
 on the side of a branch  
 of a green car: came over:  
 found it to be a cute small  
 green metal frog!  
 French army wireless van  
 packing all day outside  
 hotel - rather "scruffy"  
 outfit. French distinctly  
 inconspicuous here (the Army  
 of Occupation, I mean).

Plenty of French & Italian  
 visitors.  
 Have seen no more bullock  
 carts - no photos as yet.  
 Boys seem thoroughly content  
 with their holiday - but -  
 I think - like me, will be  
 pleased to see B. & home  
 again: just one more  
 complete day - probably back  
 to take it relatively easily.  
 Bot "Rages" here for 10/-  
 Chestfield same price.  
 Bus leaves here at 7.30 am  
 on Sat. am. - probably won't  
 stop at Inns. - to have  
 decided not to bother about  
 "posting" cash here - it  
 would journey down tomorrow.  
 Anyway (with Dannie to help

at breakfast end) not really  
 necessary.  
 Most girls "dies" for  
 dinner here - a few of the  
 men: a busy business for  
 the procs. look for efforts -  
 & it all seems out of place in  
 this ing. terrain: but is not  
 sensible.  
 News: Phil in Harrogate -  
 insurance who wants news of  
 George Rands (from H.I.) - in  
 England - Office in Glasgow -  
 last London address "Stephen  
 Rands, Burswick Court": if  
 any news, write to:-  
 ANNELIES MEISTER  
 INNS BRUCK  
 SILL GASSIE STR. 19. Second  
 Floor.  
 Name: large no. of bird bones



of all sorts outside hotels & houses - narrow almost tame.

Plans: Odd to find school-children using schoolbags of "brief-case" case - carried in hand - with two metal clasps to close them - in hand where no soap is common. Saw only one child to bag on back.

Friday - 9.30 p.m. <sup>11.00 AM</sup> at table in corridor of our floor.

Woke early - day promised well - but high cloud came over - & it remained sunless - but surprisingly warmer than for past few days.

Somewhat troubled that no

letter from B. - have not yet heard if he has got our letters - some worry at back of my mind all day - still no letter by late evening.

& we shall be away too early tomorrow for post, in afraid. Do hope everything all right.

Boys planned the day. All these are disappointed - a few are going up for some sort of tests in afternoon - better to keep boys away - for safety.

Off by cablecar to the gymnasium & off on now well-known run down to Khlon Aeras: one or two birds in icy flocks - no real damage. Very fast run - so lots of

time to look at Schloss (an old hunting palace of Maria Theresa) - & catch 12.0 train back to Tg.

Spent this - had a short stroll - dull but clear day - & in for big lunch: have long now done some preliminary packing. Boys happy. Took out on "balcony" of train all way home - seeing last views across valley - snow on trees - & wondered what it all looks like in summer.

Have fair amount of ski-tour tickets left - so went for quiet bit of fun to practice skis - jumping - "hax & bounds" - "big" - with plenty of sides up hill -

much enjoyed by boys - few people - plenty of snow - fast snow. Keep a bit dull - possibly warm weather - possibly no letter from B.

All stopped at 4.0 - finally parted with this - with regret to Pri-hoise. Walked to Maximilian Hotel - found bar still closed - so decided on tea in our hotel again. Bought some choc! (the first this holiday - moderate price) & biscuits for journey - also cheap but good watchstrap. Almost finished packing - down for enjoyable tea at 5.0 p.m. - got usual excellent table.

To my great surprise - in

walked Lucienne - the air-  
hostess whom B. & I met at  
Münster. He arrived at  
11 o'clock last night - I seemed  
genuinely pleased to see me.  
Further coincidence - she was  
as Anna (!) last year but  
earlier than B. & I. Again  
gave me her address - as I  
did not find snob taken  
in train on way home from  
Münster. It is:-

LUCIENNE VAN OVERLOOP,  
188 GRANDE CHAUSSEE,  
ANTWERP.

On subject of addresses, one  
girl in party thinks I have  
snaps of her (though I  
cannot remember taking  
any). - to, if any, send to:

Helen Davies  
8 Casscube Terrace  
Edinburgh  
or the College of Agriculture.  
Feeling fresh after tea: good  
wash & some more packing:  
the boys & I went out in  
"evening" clothes to leave  
back then boots: fresh,  
strong night - lamps  
winning this! Snow-laden  
fines - strolled a bit - boys  
good - & in for last dinner.  
food meal - paid for weeks  
dinner & bath & 4 packs of  
"Sunday Railer" (abt. 70¢) -  
everyone regretful at  
departure. One quiet  
waiter (? name) told me he  
spends summer at his

parents' café at St. Gilgen -  
must call if there - nice  
fellow. Pleased to find I  
knew the Salzburgerhof.

After dinner, chatted to nice  
quiet couple of party who were  
at Kitzbühel last year with  
H.V.S. party: loved it:  
lived in little chalet -  
4 beds to room - well  
looked after by ski-leaders -  
nice day boat where it  
didn't matter much if you  
skied well (they certainly  
don't) - with hanging in  
evening. Really nice couple  
& they loved it.

Sat again in bar for first  
dance number - a last  
goodnight to Frederic, the

barman (he works in  
Café Tyrol, near St. London)  
from March). He's been very  
sweet to children.

Talked in colloca this am.  
to Jeff, the best youngish  
Kaiser among teachers - tells  
me he trained Spanish team  
last year - two events in  
Buenos Aires (forget names) -  
good horse - few hoists yet:  
would have fulfilled contract  
at Aspen, Colorado this season  
if visa had come in time.  
[Cedar men complain that  
all best Austrian skis are  
taken by Aspen or Sun Valley -  
for the money]. Works in  
summer for Austrian Travel  
Agency - last year for \$



into London for a while  
in Rome. Was able to bring  
about £80 during back from  
London, which he kept to  
their excellent. Worked for  
£8 a week, but did overtime  
sometimes up to £17 - but  
Income Tax reduced this.

Money party downstairs at  
present - giving out presents  
for the - tests this after.  
Must be in - boys will  
be asleep by now - will  
be awake at 6.0 am. -  
leaving at 7.15 am. : must  
say I welcome first part of  
journey back to Rome.  
Beautiful paintings on  
walls - even of milk  
place - some part of

water - colour on bare  
concrete (sometimes).

Also, try out some  
rough - iron work at  
home - if raw material  
available. Over hundred,  
for lamps, for signs, or fresh  
decorative.

Sat. - Munich Airport - 4.0 pm. 1963

called at 5.45 am. : Starlight

night : but boys sleep a bit -  
then washed, closed bags &  
down for breakfast at 6.30 am.

A bit of time to waste - but  
bus at door by 7.0 - boys on.

Ran round to local P.O. to  
see if letter from Mr. - but none  
by morning post. Wounded.

Off at 7.30 am. - really  
comfortable bus - each of us

has a rug - well - heated -  
wires on etc. Hills lighting  
up, lights going out. Through  
Innsbruck - hosts lit & already  
open (before 8.0 am). After lunch -  
a long difficult climb up the  
the mts. : through wild, &  
Reith (little mountain resort &  
lake) & on this lovely mts. to  
Seefeld where we stop for 20  
minutes for coffee etc.

Seefeld larger than Igls - lies  
on small flat plain & high  
mts. around - looks nice -  
but might have to walk for to  
the - house. Beautiful snow -  
lots of it - powdering. Also a  
little offensive forally.

Went into Hotel - Pann  
Reifenst - had coffee, rolls,

butter & jam (14.40 for each).  
Delightful small hotel, clean,  
good taste, beautiful chairs,  
walls etc. - on outskirts of  
Innsbruck : lots of other hotels.  
About 4000' up.

Scenery around beautiful, high  
craggy peaks - on to Schranitz -  
a wretchedly pretty village in a  
defile : has Austrian customs &  
German customs with it.  
military police : stopped  
big lorries from Germany with  
large trailers. (Sometimes 2).

Bus now well up - mts. close  
& looks beautiful : going down  
lovely gorge to Mittenwald.  
All around looks so prosperous.  
Beautiful snow. High fests to  
Chiemsee.

Through Kittenwald - quite big town, this above, wall paintings in profusion - whole walls sometimes one big picture: oldish houses: altogether very nice.

No farm houses - but dotted about are little log huts whose walls slope up & out to roof: probably contain hay.

Are more really strong - thinning from behind on peaks in front of us - valley widens lovely valley jagged peaks showing up.

Through Klaus: bullwheeled about - as in Austria: road now winds down steeply - brilliant sun - driver using loud harsh horn at icy

corners: boys finish lane.

Through Garmisch: not all all attractive - big Olympic built up jump on left - saw a man taking it. enormous height (jumps of alt 1200 meters). It is a sparse town in flat of the valley. Probably neighboring Partenkirchen is the smart part.

"Onion" spires on churches. No forests about. Road now gently dropping in broad flat valley fringed with uniform mountains. Road good. "Flapping" noise told us one of our wheel chains had broken - so stopped to take it off.

From base road fringes the left side of the road: vertical frozen waterfalls - & two tunnels - which pleased the boys.

Rain now broadens greatly - very flat - hay still on poles. Cannot understand absence of farmhouses - literally miles of open ground with only occasional hay stack.

Through Murnau - rather like Daglfelt in size & dist! More dull plains for miles - tho' newly planted birches line road where they are not already growing.

Through Effing: many big cast - this on top - pass no in opposite direction.

Through Weilheim - a moderate sort of dull town - provincial size - old.

Alt 4500 ft. from Munich we begin to climb again - road more interesting - pine forests - big clearings in between - no real sign of dwelling houses: no hedges whatever - on roadside or elsewhere.

Country gets fatter, hillier. Through Starnberg - over paved roadways - pretty town - lots of wall-paintings.

More & more fines - a lovely approach to a big city.

Munich at last - alt 1300 ft. - but approach is through dingy depressing few suburbs. Big trees - a few lovely old



building - but depressing  
on the whole.

Thore at airport - no word  
of plane: had lunch: air-  
port building huge & truly  
magnificent - like inside  
of a cathedral: lounge has  
very comfortable seats - red -  
in hall lined with old  
German holiday pictures.

Forx has office for airlines  
all over world - but not  
a place: later found that  
all planes from London &  
elsewhere grounded by fog -  
& delay will be 24 hours.  
We have contacted British  
Consul for money, booked  
in hotel in Munich & now  
wait for some final details

before going H. Will  
wondered about no news from  
H. - if she has written to  
Bathway Hotel I shall not  
get letter: have considered  
cable - but apart from  
expense - which doesn't  
matter - I don't think it  
would cause anything but  
confusion & alarm: had  
intended phoning for  
London - but "banned"  
on it mentally - but shall  
just have to wait.

Later - 11.15 PM - bed.

Almost interminable wait stretched  
on to 6.0 PM, when finally we got  
money for consul, hotel beds etc.  
Have heard that every airport in  
Europe is closed because of fog -

& Munich itself has just shut -  
the last to do so - & the first time in  
10 yrs. There has been no plane  
into here from London since Monday!!  
A plane from Tokyo for London has been  
sitting outside since yesterday am.

Had 15 minute walk in fog with  
bags - chased by light of new moon  
struggling through mist!

Had dinner at airport 6.30 PM -  
3.50 M. each (special price). Then into  
bus - then Munich to Hotel Hansa  
Kunze in Forthstrasse - near main  
railway, hardly a sleeping place -  
no meals - forbidding outside -  
but bedrooms excellent. We are  
all sleeping in two very large  
high beds put together - in  
clean, well-furnished room  
warm - with "smoking" fröchte

bathroom - where we have all  
had good hot soaks. Plenty of  
lights, ashtray, etc. Price for  
us is 6.50 M. each - normal  
price of single room seems to be  
15 M. for single, 20 M. for double.  
Bought bags & immediately rushed  
out (8.30 PM) to find "train" shop  
for C.: many nice things - bags &  
cloves & food - but train not in  
window. Amosha cheap (£3) -  
lady's ones nice. Went into  
Kation restaurant: C. & I had  
lots of coffee, M. pot of chocolate,  
plate I had 1/2 litre beer, coffee  
& choc. 1.30 M. each beer 0.50 M.!  
Boys well pleased. "Kollid home"  
- food humors - have just  
had a few biscuits & an orange  
each in bed!!

Tonight said to be the big festive night in Munich - but have no desire to efface beer-halls: happy & warm where I am - & feel B.Y. will guess why I haven't moved.  
P.S. got 20 M. each out 4 cannel (about £2).

Memo: Munich better looking at night - tons of neon signs - in good taste. A further piece of snow sculpture - scene in a boat - amazing detail.

Offensive Americans "flirting" openly with low girls.

Admired "cute" motor scooters in window - all £150 each.



Plaster figure unit in wall of bar - space behind - lit by 5 bulbs at different points. About 5' x 4'.

18th JAN

Monday - 30th Jan. - Munich. At last! - best joy that I may have been B.Y. - if in time will phone in London.

Kept well. Up at 8.30 a.m. - out again to Bahnhof for rolls & coffee: very cold - rather empty town: many shops lit up - a few open.

There are only a very few streets for shops - had good long walks round them. Food dear - clothes reasonable. Found 3 toy shops with really wonderful toys, cast to make up & other clever mechanical toys - all good price but reasonable. C. overpaid & could scarcely be pulled away.

At 11.0 a.m. bus town clock  
figures flickering to chimed  
for 10 mins.  
Made notes of a train system  
for C.  
Ran back to hotel for bus at  
12.0 - 1.0 H to airport.  
Had lunch - hung about -  
one plane said come - played  
with all the toys on all the  
stalls & spent our last  
money. How I do wish we  
were off - as I am most  
tensely anxious to catch  
7.30 from Euston.  
Late - 12.20 a.m. - Cumberland Hotel  
Bed.

Plane at last got off - but  
from the first it was almost a  
forlorn hope. Rose through fog

to 6500' (good comfortable place) -  
up into brilliant sunshine.  
Below was a flat sea of cloud -  
absolutely uniform - like a  
blanket of soft snow - as far as  
the eye could reach - all ways.  
This persisted without any  
variation whatever over all  
Europe & until the sun went  
down (which we watched): after  
that - the new moon - &  
cloud below.

Pilot did his best - kept  
dead straight at 205 M.P.H..  
I was absolutely "on edge" for  
whole journey - as timing was  
"knife-edge" - & I remained  
most anxious about B.T.

Boys thoroughly happy -  
Spec. M. who was delighted

with whole trip.  
Meats & other wool handed  
round at first. Later, a  
box - beautifully wrapped  
forwards inside - savetie,  
plate, sandwiches, sausage  
roll, slab of cake, biscuits,  
sweets, orange, apple. One  
could have anything to  
drink, tea, coffee, soft drinks,  
beer, any kind of drink (all  
free). Boys had beer made -  
I had black coffee - & felt  
better after second cup. Also  
offered & bought 20 Marks  
duty free (1/2) - & offered beer  
etc. & sweets later - boys  
had sweets & drink - but  
I was too anxious to eat.  
On plane, I arranged for

"reception" to order a fast car  
& get quick clearance thro'  
customs & passport control.  
Beautiful landing at 6.20 p.m.  
all set at 6.30 - but car  
driver said impossible - he  
needed 1 hr. 10 mins. - so  
scrapped idea: found that  
no chance of getting train  
further north - no stops.

Round Manchester - but  
only sat on plane in  
afternoon (which I booked) -  
thinking to go by 12.0 mid-  
night sleeper to Manchester. Will  
see what B.T. says.

In by bus to Euston -  
arrived 8.30 p.m. (cup of tea  
free at airport). Various  
tidious inquiries about



cancellation better, availability  
of tickets etc.  
considerable delay on phone  
(best & John Comic had tea  
in cafe while waiting) —  
got by at last — ears still  
half-deaf & buzzing from  
plane landing — but never  
heard anything sweeter than  
his voice & reassurance that  
all was well.

He gave us courage to stay  
in London & come by  
his foot tomorrow evening.  
By now 9.30 pm — discussed  
with Comic where we should  
stay (Bentleyway — but for  
away) — had sudden  
brilliant idea of going to  
Cambridge — without

phoning — by tube  
(demanded by boys) to  
Marble Arch — in to  
Cambridge — looked  
crowded — but welcomed  
almost with open arms — got  
single room for Comic — &  
splendid big 3-bedded room  
for selves — with small  
dressing room off — &  
usual bathroom — with  
beautiful trip towels, lots  
of soap & every comfort.

Washed up the boys,  
washed down for Horlicks,  
coffee & biscuits — up  
again — all settled &  
here — at last — peace &  
rest in bed.

Very warm.

<sup>MEAN</sup>  
London — Train — 5.15 pm

Woke at 6.0 am — did not  
keep again — but felt well;  
Boys awake & bright at 7 am.  
All had fine Kew wash  
& bath — tidied — & arranged  
bags — made up parcel for  
Miss B. — & down to  
breakfast 8.45 am.

All ate well — good breakfast  
joined by John Comic who  
was impressed by first stay  
in Cambridge. M. had  
puffed wheat & Rice C. puffed  
wheat & sausage & beans, I  
corn flakes & ketchup — well, after  
chocolate.

Closed bag, upstairs — down  
again — gave Miss B. parcel to  
hall-porter, wiped boots, & off

feeling brisk on dry lovely  
day to helpings: "did" the  
boys & the rest of the shop — boys  
kitchen left almost best.  
Found that Cornico can be  
had on thick 6-8 ply base to  
any size — but is brittle  
stuff alone & difficult to "lay"  
down with bottle, if required,  
helpings & will get me any  
size or shape — fairly dear.  
"Warrick" Linoleum — not so  
nice.

Saw a few interesting lamp-  
shades — note. Especially  
close-fitting ceiling type.  
Went to Oxford Circus —  
down to Hamleys. All  
boys have fill of gazing &  
playing. C. bought a

small wagon for his train  
after sudden deliberation!  
over to Irish Travel Agency  
could not book berth - but  
may get them on boat. Got  
plane tickets from Manchester  
cancelled (good job - I  
believe they are grounded  
by fog again!)  
on down Rye -  
through Swan Ridge  
nothing new to interest  
over to Brasserie at Lyons  
at 12.15 pm. for good lunch  
at 1/2" each. Well well!  
Then to Simpson - as  
M. wants to buy a target face  
for his bow + arrow with his  
5/2. Got good luck to get  
his soiled fullsize face of

first grade canvas for 15/-  
less than 2 pence. Left it  
there to finish up later.  
Tube to Leicester Square - "did"  
bookshops on Charing Cross Rd.  
including "Better Books" where I  
bought a couple of books -  
1 book each we bought a  
book for Colin - as we all  
felt he had a sufficiently  
good present from Austria.  
After more shops - thought  
of going to Grosvenor Cinema -  
but time badly sufficient -  
so had a quiet little tea in  
comp tea shop of Grosvenor  
cinema at Leicester -  
boys had ice - chatter -  
then at 3.30 pm. called  
for target face at Simpson.

M. clutched this to his  
bosom + didn't part with  
it till we got in the train!  
Called for bags at Cumberland  
C. insisted on taking messae -  
I the bags - off by tube +  
got train in nice time. All  
feeling well.  
Train at 4.30 pm. - arrived  
joyed!  
M. & C. have devised some  
"conies" which I bought at  
the station for them - have  
explored all the lavatories -  
+ are now playing with  
C's motor + reading Colin's  
press!  
Train 8.30 pm.  
Meaning Liverpool. Good  
journey: had good dinner.

+ boys have travelled  
quietly: all well: hope  
to be almost home +  
off.  
11.30 am. - On Liverpool Boat  
Main late - fog. Have  
learned that all air flights  
have been cancelled!  
safely on boat - + got  
good cabins without  
difficulty. Tried to phone  
or write to say that boat  
might be late at Liverpool -  
but efforts unsuccessful.  
Took children for walking  
+ rolls - kept coffee - +  
off to bed at 11.0. Shall  
turn in myself  
very happy: hope B. not  
keep waiting.

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Last updated 7/30/99.  
Christopher E. Brennan



# RAINEY ENDOWED SCHOOL, MAGHERAFELT.

Reports for Term ending *Easter*

1953.

Pupil's Name *Christopher Brennan.*

SUBJECTS	Percentage Marks obtained	Place in Subject	REMARKS
English .....	<i>66</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Good. Writing needs more care however.</i>
History .....	<i>76</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Very good</i>
Geography .....	<i>73</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Very good.</i>
Arithmetic .....	<i>158/200</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Very good, but still a little careless at times.</i>
Algebra .....			
Geometry .....			
Trigonometry .....			
French .....			
German .....	<i>96</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Very good.</i>
Latin .....	<i>73</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>a very good result.</i>
Greek .....			
Chemistry .....			
Physics .....			
Domestic Economy			
Drawing .....	<i>90</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Very good.</i>
Music .....	<i>75</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>An excellent worker.</i>
<i>Biology.</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Very good.</i>

General Remarks

*V.S. O'K.*

Signed *V.S. O'K.*



COUNTY LONDONDERRY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Education Office,  
Whitehall Chambers,  
New Row,  
COLERAINE.  
27th May, 1953.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have to inform you that your son/~~daughter~~ -  
Christopher Brennen

has qualified at the recent examination of the Ministry of Education, (N.I.) for admission to the Secondary Department of a Grammar School.

If you wish him/~~her~~ to obtain a Grammar School Education (the course normally lasts for five/six years) you should:-

1. Have Part A of the enclosed form completed by the Principal of the Grammar School which you wish your child to attend.
2. Complete Part B. of the form yourself and sign the accompanying Agreement.

A scholarship will be awarded in respect of Tuition Fees and books and stationery. In the case of some Grammar Schools, the parent may be required to pay to the school a supplementary fee. Parents are advised to ascertain from the Principal of the Grammar School of their choice the amount (if any) of this supplementary fee.

An additional allowance ranging from £2.10.0 to £7.10.0 per annum towards Incidental Expenses may be awarded to pupils of parents in the lower income groups. If you wish to claim under this heading you must complete Part C of the form. Any subsequent change in income must be immediately notified to this Office.



The award of all scholarships is subject to the following conditions:-

1. Any change of address must be immediately notified to this Office.
2. The continuance of the award is subject to satisfactory reports on conduct, attendance and progress from the Principal of the Grammar School.

The Form, duly completed, with your signature witnessed by a Justice of the Peace, or Commissioner of Oaths, should be returned to the Education Office not later than the 15th JUNE, 1953. If no return is received by this date, it will be assumed that you do not wish to take up the scholarship. Details of travelling allowance to which your child is entitled (if any) will be sent to you in due course.

The Birth Certificate submitted with the application is hereby returned and should not be forwarded again to this Office.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. Hunter.

Director of Education.

Copy to the Parent of each successful Candidate in the Qualifying Examination for Admission to Grammar Schools.



COUNTY LONDONDERRY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Whitehall Chambers,  
New Row,  
Coleraine.

31st 1953.  
4th December, 1954.

Grammar School Scholarships, 1953/54.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have to inform you that the value of your son's/~~daughter's~~ scholarship for the current year is as follows:-

1. Tuition Fees	£ 18 . 10 . 0
2. Book and Stationery Grant	£ 5 . 0 . 0
3. Incidental Grant	£ -
4. Examination fee	£ -
5. Boarding Grant (Provisional)	£ -
TOTAL	<u>£ 23 . 10 . 0</u>

A cheque to cover item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Payment of the remaining item(s) is being made direct to the grammar school concerned.

The accompanying travel grant form should be completed in respect of the "qualified" pupils in your family in daily attendance at grammar schools. This form should be returned to the Education Office not later than 31st January, 1954 together with used travel tickets. Recoupment in excess of £5 will be made at the end of the school year.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. Hunter.

Director of Education.

To the Parent of each "qualified" pupil.

*Mr. Wilfred B. Bennett*



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Yours faithfully,

R. B. Hunter.

Director of Education.

To the Parent of each "qualified" pupil.

*Mr. Wilfred Breenan.*



# RAINEY ENDOWED SCHOOL, MAGHERAFELT.

Reports for Term ending Summer 1953.

Pupil's Name Christopher Brennan

SUBJECTS	Percentage Marks obtained	Place in Subject	REMARKS
English	72	2.	Very Good.
History	85	1	Excellent
Geography	68	4	Very satisfactory.
Arithmetic	86	5	Very good.
Algebra	90	1	Excellent
Geometry			
Trigonometry			
French			
German	96	1=	Excellent.
Latin	72	2	A very good result.
Greek			
Chemistry			
Physics			
Domestic Economy			
Drawing	88	1	Excellent.
Music	77	2=	Very good work and progress
Biology.	91	6=	Satisfactory

General Remarks:

*Excellent*

Signed B. J. J. J.



# RAINEY ENDOWED SCHOOL, MAGHERAFELT.

Reports for Term ending Christmas 1953

Pupil's Name Bremer, Christopher

SUBJECTS	Percentage Marks obtained	Place in Subject	REMARKS
English	82	7	Keen and intelligent work marred by untidiness.
History	84	3	Excellent.
Geography	88	3 =	Very good. Works hard.
Arithmetic	44	24 =	Good work spoiled by lack of accuracy.
Algebra	98	1	} Excellent work.
Geometry	99	1	
Trigonometry			
French	85	8 eq.	Very good.
German	91	7 =	Excellent.
Latin	92	3 =	Excellent.
Greek			
Chemistry	68	4	Good. - Keen worker.
Physics	71	4	V. good.
Domestic Economy			
Drawing			
Music			
Biology.	—	—	Excellent.

General Remarks:

*Very*

Signed B. T. Lyons



