

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 Brennen, 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 - out 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, woollens, 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 Igl. 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 (Lanserssee) 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 Theresin 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 gateau 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 "spraghled" 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 "Glumine?".] 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 Igls! 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 rucsacs 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 carto 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 Austrain 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 printing on 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.

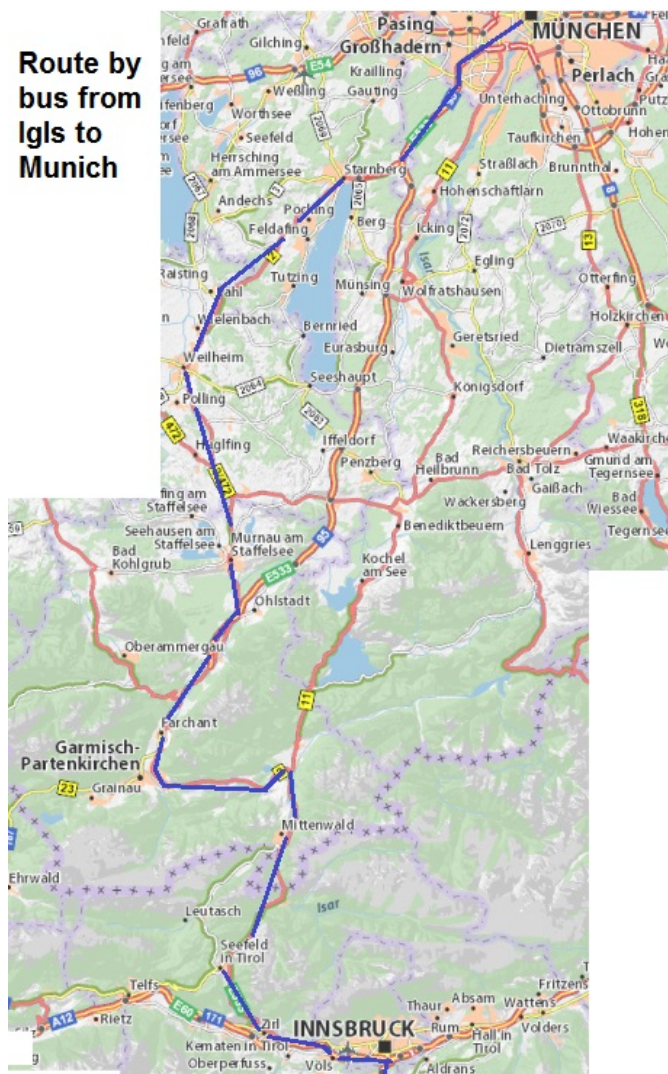
"Onion" spires on churches. No poverty about. Road now gently dropping in broad flat valley fringed with uniform mountains. Roads good. "Flapping" noise told us one of our wheel chains had broken - so stopped to take it off. Soon bare rock fringes the left side of the road: vertical frozen waterfalls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

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

Thursday Jan. 1.

10:00 pm on boat.

Safely in on banks - the
two boys quite happy reading
together in top bunk.

Left home of a hour -
stopped at 8:30 for odds +
ends - left ourselves rather
too much time - tea in
Cater's kitchen - to boat at
6:45 pm - saw 8:1 + 8:30
to 8:45 rather good in air.
Boarded "Waterloo" - clean
ship - good wood - exposed. We
got a lovely 2-better cabin
just beside master's office -
roomy. Washed. Met a
lot of friends in various
lounges - Arby Tompkins -
Paul Fry who used to play

for Colaparis - in the
 force uniform - just back
 from breakfast (P. Rhodes) -
 & now posted to look for
 the Tony Weiner - finally
 abundant in inkblots on
 his force uniform - just back
 from the East where he is
 P.O. (based on King's) -
 coming for P.T.
 Saw ship safely out of
 dock - then went down
 for another feed: boys had
 clear orange coffee - took -
 & Michael "topped off" with
 large glass of milk - up to
 deck again - saw range
 & latitude - beautiful
 clear moonlit night -
 so to bed - very

comfortably; boys just
 settling down
 missing P.T. very much
 says: Range of woods plant
 in dining lounge
 Rec: John Miller is by
 Walter Hall.
 Friday Jan 11
 Good evening; once I was
 & saw the moonlight
 silver on the sea - & the
 boys: Panning vaguely - I
 think they found it last.
 balanced with tea at
 6:30 am: washed
 shaved - & off in
 the dark rainier streets
 by last air 7:30 am to
 time P.T.: duty replaced
 the train - after finding

one (food) seemed great -
 & buying a couple of boxes.
 Train off at 8:00 am - &
 went immediately for
 breakfast. We had a
 reasonable "plain" breakfast
 for 3/2 each - because the
 bacon & egg came cost 2/6
 extra - & the boys voted
 against it - especially as
 there were good rolls & fair
 coffee - but he did himself
 out of a decent tip by (he
 thought) cleverly arranging the
 change out of a £1 note so
 that it contained nothing
 less than 2/6
 weather clear - boys had
 plenty to look at - so

time found early till London
 at 12:30 pm. Straight to
 Southway Hotel (have room at
 P.T. & E. bed) -> break lunch -
 over boat - ice cream -
 Hamley - tea at Lyons in
 Piccadilly - bought fruit for
 journey - Kew's & St. John's
 (which was rotten) - then
 Theatre - bath & bed.
 Highlight was train dep. in
 Hamley: London rather
 nice - fountain playing
 in Trafalgar Square - East
 away to be cleared.
 Am dull - & minor P.T.
 P.T. everything packed &
 in order for the morning.
 Sat. Jan 12. 9:00 AM.
 between - some books: rather

back to write this on
a crowded train. A star officer
made a sandwich - train
was a - now a bus.

Got off in good time - breakfast in
bedroom - met party 8.15 am.
up with all - then down -
mainly political: for some of
the same kind (Hosp. live by
himself).

Got me to get - this - instead
without water - crossed to
water by "Koning Street" (the
I crossed by on highway trip).
Eskdale - had a good lunch -
sat on deck + looked at
got cold (morning) - to wait
for bridge in lounge.

Arrived 3.40 pm (Belgian time)
after getting train seats -

car for coffee + biscuits
in kitchen cafe (3/10) - the
had about an hour to wait
in front of street. very
disappointed + low: but
small cafes very good -
+ some looking with big
central pane. Pt. for
chocolate + French paper -
on to train - foreign
comfortable run to Brussels
large views.

Dinner at 7.15 pm: fork,
spaghetti + ham, chicken +
potatoes + white sauce,
lemon sauce (with 1/2
also) - boys ate well +
enjoyed it.
Have largely fitted away
the day talking to people.

two beds had reserved
also: one now known
"Baby" - 4.15 - 8.30 am.
kitchen - one better than
well worth bringing (the
bring folding cot).

Was that keeps down "can
on" till Aschen (at 11.0 pm).
that for night with
Ch. live.

Sunday Jan 4 train 10.30 am
out of train at Baden -
the contents for paper +
catering control - into
Kings: but, computer
S. with keeps: under a:
most had been removed
+ a "train" - off to sleep:
did not wake till 9.0 am
I got up at 8.0 - then a

went out to see about
dining car - but it has
got lost. So breakfast off
bread + biscuits + a box of
choc. one can then
out of with for keeps for
abundant - but for 3/6 each!

All our things - some, just
found the Ampting: so
stop for show at Munich -
but stay in "Kings" to be taken
when we change for Innsbruck.
After Munich - 12.15 pm.
That for my plans to travel:
arrived 10.30 am: off train
(leaving last 5.00) + found that
party had been kept up by
train having to be set in
half at Aschen - too late to
start. Munich - enter in

mind - a few big new
 buildings. Cleaned #1 for
 (10.30 meals)
 + had hot choc. (12) + cold (6)
 with rolls in 5:15 class
 cafe for 2.30 M. (alt. 17=).
 cups of coffee run to cost
 about 1/2 = coffee bread etc.
 all very dear. Time to go
 went for. 6.00 for a in hotel -
 cost alt. 307 = !!!

(to get - avoid the volcanic
 ash hills in Kent).
 Melrose drove a lot of toilet-
 toilet tube - but as found
 it (with toilet) under radiator
 carriage inclined to be cold
 heated by little coal stove
 at end. C. 1.11. now
 watching attendance class

it out.]
 walked from station 2
 blocks to city center - but
 mostly rubble: trash with
 trailers: pile new clothes
 etc. in shops - prices not
 bad (the boots alt. 1.10).
 Saw some - sculptures figures.
 Fair number of uniforms -
 mainly American, who are
 in formation.

(to Hotel 10.00 for)
 Karam's joining the mountain
 train - snow 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

Planned to local train!
 Arrived Lumbok alt. 3.30 pm -
 out to big bus. - up. High
 road (alt. 30 min) to Digo -
 to hotel now.
 Before going to room, C. M. +
 E. worked up + got into a
 boots + pair: boots good -
 C. M. + E. +
 main family boot.
 Back for tea in cafe - bar -
 wash - dinner (soup, chicken
 meal + salad, mango + banana).
 boys had soup + bread
 (alt. was very dear - alt. 1.10)
 + E. had a bottle of cheap
 wine. Upstairs unpacked
 into bed - water + feeling
 well.
 Have been feeling well + a

interesting to see - much?
 more than I had expected.
 Hotel quite simple -
 beautifully appointed - looks
 distinctly expensive - have
 to keep off stairs - the thing
 seems to have a special class
 price for one part, for
 dinner etc. - only the food
 + I + two others. But in
 the actual hotel in other
 and up with a name about
 5 minutes away - but
 already very comfortable.
 So far as I can gather,
 climbing is on the easy
 side.
 [Dinner - Snow House looking
 - + then three hours later to
 be good for the boots to go.]

boys have believed in
 Kennedy. We'll go for
 ate a very good dinner
 very nicely. I was
 waiting to say that after
 to see what was to
 - missing proper in the
 + kind, like mad as
 down: all this little
 - Michael distinctly
 castfallen when he saw
 they had a rest in
 for him!! It's changed
 to a much - 5th row.
 Monday Jan 21. Leave 10:30 P.
 boys asleep - was in
 for - for the boys off to the
 local class. Hotel - the room
 to drink + drink - while quiet
 tonight beautiful - soft lighting

by standard lamps - small
 table with spiky colored ash-
 trays: table legs, wavy in
 tilt, as tables - painted with
 typical traditional designs.
 long low wavy table in
 middle, many plants, bowls
 have big oil paintings of mountains
 + a few inset, beautiful
 dressed adults for things like
 jewelry, the boots, wooden
 interior, etc. Displays in
 various languages. Very fine
 soft dance music coming from
 the bar: it is bubbling in a
 cozy way, very soft lighting -
 rather of more modern ideas in
 and wall - but from behind
 for some hours - from bars
 + front for others: air condition

to us kids or hell, thinking
 thing is to find the usual
 dozen people (mainly American
 + Italian) who seem to be
 always in bar + near the
 clear on our holiday + I spoke
 to one American who has been
 a month here in this way -
 near out of a lounge, but -
 now outside the door (fractally).
 + the fresh this one (and
 + heard before the boys were
 usual holiday habits!): good
 breakfast in another wooden
 breakfast room - boys had
 chocolate - I coffee - rolls
 very fresh - butter - jam.
 Then out - I got a new + very
 fine pair of shoes from the
 whole shop - so all to the

part: Roger: got 9 + 11.
 a bottle of tickets each
 (20\$ for 30 persons) 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 was
 happy to be the teacher!
 I went to the class (of 8) -
 amusing + most intelligent
 instructor (Irish): class only
 five - contained an American,
 a Danish, a French girl, an
 Italian, 2 British, I English
 + me! Good + fairly easy

fun on excellent slopes
for a beginner to learn -
faster than - but most
pleasant. Doing Christie's
mainly - my legs are a bit
wobbly - but technique
improves good.

Picked boys up - down for
lunch (ham with mustard
sauce, three soups, a goulash,
& a cooked apple - fasting):
dances & beer. Up to Mike -
boys off on little walking
expedition - on class took
bus (4\$) & 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 type of ski lift -

you get a lift & just let
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
fast) & different speeds - up
once more - & down on
fairly fast run - back
bottom & on down to Dept
not difficult - & good rather
quite fun (B. will be
pleased to know too taking
it easy)! "improved" the boys
away from their lifts - & tried
the "landhaus - Beck" (corner
of the hotel near practice slopes)
for tea: nice quiet place -
but price flow: however

much cheaper than here -
2 beers, 1 tea, 3 high quality
cakes - 19.70\$. Full
without music & dancing.
Left Mike's there & wandered
thru' hamlet village looking
at Mike's - small - nice -
but too few: nice little
ice-cream: houses pretty white
painted legs & pictures on
walls: one wall (gable)
hung with things-looking
thing which proved to be
corn-on-the-cob.

A good wash - boys took
well in advanced slits & "longer"
& ate food dinner - boys
on outside, was kept with
flat cliffs; can't reach beam
& ocean - wings covered with a

kind of fasting, then a
plate of Amstal cheese &
butter - eaten with bread.
I drank some wine, boys
had a very nice bottle of
orangeade each.

Read in lounge - body
chatting to Michael asked what
he had learned at ski school -
M. replied "mostly how to fall".
Up to bed, when 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 pm

Woke & up again before the
boys came to lift their gear:
some bit of vague holiday
(being "Twelfth Night") - so

two rolls but ordinary bread
 for breakfast: out - first to
 the - but (a rough + rocky part of
 workshop) to get out a new
 pair of shoes - he had broken
 the leather "shoes" of one
 which: Collected this at
 Lashans-Bake where we left
 the last night. (It costs
 1/2 side a 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 the
 class. (I bought them badges
 yesterday - they're very fond of
 them). We practiced Kowish
 "climber" - + we fairly
 long - talking mostly of

the jumping competition: at
 Jing-Tsai in after - apparently
 it is one of a kind of four -
 the combined work being
 practically world-climber.
 Filly continued to be very
 sunny. I told him he was
 smiling too much - he said,
 "If I smile too much, I die."
 "If I do not smile I die. So!!"
 Again - "You do not say "Hail
 hills" with your ski - just
 lift in a little bit - and
 make an old instructor
 happy - please!" Again -
 "you do not ski to martial
 music - always hear a
 beautiful melody in your ear -
 from their moment - and
 always in your life till

five minutes before you die -
 have your melody in your ear
 when you ski". A lady falls
 swooning helplessly to the
 side of her skis - he looks
 and says "Oh - she is the
 dying woman in 'Lobangin'".
 Perhaps his last was when we
 were charging down a slope
 yesterday doing behind him -
 I kept up close - we stopped
 at the bottom + looked
 back at most of the other
 in various stages of disaster.
 He smiled - and said "Korea!!"
 lunch at no table - but
 brought on (it's old water
 jumping) - has at hotel door
 (return each 10¢) - down
 to Lashans + to Jing-Tsai on

the outside - a magnificent
 "finger" of a hill 700-800'
 high - starting but on
 top - bottom runs up to
 another hill facing first -
 the elements view: thousands
 there. Jumping rope till
 about 3:30 - 40 competitors -
 each having two fingers.
 Standard was double - probably
 world's best finger - won
 by Arthur Brown (from
 Black Mountain) who had a hair
 of bad luck not to gain
 Olympic points - missed
 a take-off v. fantastic
 turning thing in - jump
 was 70 meters. Badly +
 Norwegian used new
 technique - hands well

forward + vertical -
 like a glide - most of them
 used older arm wings -
 one very good Japodanin
 (Jane Kida who was 42).
 used nearest technique with
 approx. back like bird wings.
 Head face (close) to horizon
 3" to horizon. Smiles very good.
 Only one fell with lot -
 + very terrifying it looks
 but I think he was OK.
 One striking feature - the
 "low flap" of the landing
 wings. Amelana had
 injured man away immediately
 + without ceremony.
 Home by bus - a bit cold
 about the feet. Arrived in
 bus by guide "Puki" and his

knowledge of English songs +
 history. Told us Brigadier
 was a kind of "Battle of Hastings"
 in 1807 when Andres Hija
 (a national hero now - a son
 of Patria Hora) dared to hold
 out against Mexico + actually
 defeated the French - but later
 betrayed + shot.

Beautiful view from bus on
 way up. Brenner face (to
 Costana St.) lies just behind
 us.

Home at 6:30 pm. dumped
 cameras - out for skies +
 skied till after dark. Then we
 tried the Hotel Pan fetea -
 but no dancing - store had
 gone "crazy" - but had nice
 reasonable tea. Back to

Hotel at 6:30 pm - washed
 clothes all over at the basin
 down for very nice dinner.
 Had intended getting boys off
 to bed early but head wait
 insisted they go into the bar
 to see "Brazil Topolea dancing
 + music - due to start at
 9:00 - didn't till 9:30. Boys
 thumbed with all the drinkers
 about them + by the "show"
 all in Topolea costume - women
 top + men (trunks + dummies) -
 13 men - with zither-like
 instruments on tables - I
 with a hat. Went for home
 a bit unimpressed +
 unchased - but afterwards
 very sleepily up to bed at
 10:00 pm. I drank a local

^{Therapeutic - made}
 "hottel" - "stina - something"
 cost 6 \$ - alcohol wanted
 a strong "like blessing + belly"
 but didn't get it!

very sleepy - enjoying the
 boys' company - but wish
 Mr. was here to complete us.
 Drifted back to bed.

Bed - no d. until nearly 11:0 am
 First big wake - getting late
 from the boys' conversation -
 "first d. last Friday" - we all
 read it over + over - with
 great surprise - to have
 20th d. to be out of town.
 but do wish the car had.

Have already typing the
 mountain trip before breakfast
 (maybe just because of
 35 letters!). Roll, coffee,

chocolate again - out to
 classes - less clothes on.
 C.M. have friends - I
 class seems much like a
 game to them now - largely
 enjoying it. I saw M. to
 down a slope classing for
 friend - going like mad -
 at about 1000 feet on his
 feet - small jumps & all.
 with 187 could have been
 the delight on his face -
 he didn't know I was
 looking. C. was in - was
 individual - but driving
 very pleased with life. The
 December was moment 5-
 feet - felt like the top of
 them in to road.
 our class practicing

control of his hands &
 so on - not very dramatic
 but good for us, Fritz was
 asking us to place the feet
 softly in the snow after a
 horizontal turn - one girl
 had a good "edge" which
 tracked the snow - so he
 would do for her skiing
 & 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 "The Chris to us -
 he did a 'Haw-Christiana'
 trace" I do not write for the
 money. I like to see a little
 of what I say on at in

you thinking. And when it
 comes out, I die. I
 die in the morning, and I
 die again in the afternoon!
 Good lunch - finished for
 a second bottle of money in
 the snow on the way to the
 hotel. Boys got 10¢ each
 for me - & went by bus
 to chair lift - up on chair
 lift & back down home.
 Fritz took on class - now
 numbering five - in a
 "hang chair" - first up in
 cables to the way station
 (Heliowasser) - down through
 woods - over broad fields
 of 187 snow - good news -
 a fair amount of walking
 then dodging the "quite"

thick forest - out to hotel
 again & to the lift. Rather
 tired - been going down
 but he'll be "silly" really
 to stop. The German girl
 was out of my language
 from the rest of us - but
 suddenly I had the idea
 that the night before lunch
 found the die, & chattered
 away to us in fine style,
 not perfect for the other.
 He tells us that Cotina
 is safe, but expensive
 & somewhat difficult.
 Equally good nearby place
 (now there) is Sabata -
 much cheaper.
 After class collected big
 bags for tonight (deposited)

I left the table waded -
 badly in need of it - down
 looks after his mail better.
 Found Michael - C. under
 about - came to table &
 found him in bed in taxi.
 he had not his trousers
 & no shoes - nothing
 that could do to put right
 easily - filled him up!
 Out for food & tea & cigarettes
 with hot chocolate to the
 landlady - back (19.708) -
 home - down at 7.0 -
 finished my wine -
 put away things on bed
 table - stove & out to
 cable car (with boys) at
 8.15 PM. Up to table.
 Photo - changed to upper

car (taxi 8.50 of road) -
 got off at Fylen railway
 up - some lights for
 below - 12.00 night.
 Climbed to little (landlady -
 the English - set round
 benches & drinking but not
 wine - being all sorts of
 things - boys' "peaches" &
 or "10 green bottles" -
 ended with Top of the
 Song "Saffron" - at
 each round in the song,
 the person born in that
 month stand up on seat
 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
 hand from knee to knee.
 M. was drinking success
 by standing up with
 red & white & then sleep
 eyes & about 2 glasses
 of wine - & drinking
 when "July" came. At
 the end of the song the
 party is over (good way
 to end a party). Our in-
 probability. M. was &
 C. & A. & temporary man
 with boys - but they
 were very good - great
 reference - fine words.

know, heard, danger -
 writing lights below
 & fastness. M. went
 with Austin boy for last
 mile or so - made it
 easier for me. Home -
 heavily weary - on stairs
 of midnight. Put boys
 into bed - finished a note
 to B. & into bed myself.
 M. - girl's jump &
 saw west night - tree B. -
 rafter knees, photo etc
 coming into deep "V" - neck
 & chest black, rest light
 black.
 Also saw Austin in
 "green light" - but also quickly
 "beams": some animals
 smell of aromatic wood -

pushed county in water
 every morning when I worked.
 Thurs. Hotel house 10:00 pm - 8:00
 weather still again - light
 pouring snow - but very
 pleasant. looks only as usual -
 now, the worse - showed -
 when the boys about 8-10
 + down to another good hair-
 fast. we sit in a corner part
 of two windows + watch birds
 or outside while we eat.
 Post's large base (hair = 5 ft) -
 picked up hair - now will
 would - + all to fracture fingers.
 Did well on the "fingers"
 hair" (a couple of a bill) -
 fifty hairs found the - in
 a nice way - he can be
 frightfully cutting. "An old

master of the thing has to bend to
 make this turn - but we
 finished (his eyes close - almost
 himself up next) do not
 bend - we do not have to.
 Also - on the subject of bending
 bases - he walks over
 completely + feels a body's
 leg - keeping - "There must
 be - do look carefully -
 there is no other explanation.
 There must be a hair that's
 down your trouser leg,
 motion." Boys still very
 happy in class - except
 about how we got who
 is always falling!! They
 really enjoy the hair - too -
 + was immensely pleased.
 when I "come off" - I was

fracturing balancing on
 separate feet + putting base
 on at same time - but
 both were delighted that
 "Daddy fell!!" hair
 always had to leave the
 hair fingers for lunch. was
 talking to French man + lady
 for Paris - recommended
 keeps (near Georgia) as being
 reasonable + good. What
 has the hair. but in
 clear says jaws would be
 but frightfully offensive.
 had lunch - can we press
 fairly closely what food is
 going to be for meals (lunch
 + dinner always 4 full
 courses - delectable food).
 All up together by bus to

Deligian's chairlift - first
 C. H. up with tickets for
 two rides each - but up
 first time with them - then
 separated. hair's cross
 country with fifty in grass +
 direction of land - but then
 he changed his mind - + we
 set off for Switzerland: very
 varied + interesting hair -
 long gentle fields with
 occasional big dips (probably
 divides in hair) + left hair -
 then hair + there really kept
 brown. when we got going +
 fifty tickets of the hair I
 think like a dream - + he
 seemed very pleased + we
 were 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. Bill - ex. end. I think Fritz wanted to know if he dared instruct to follow him thro' a hedge (literally - just like a Irish thorn hedge - you nose almost had to touch the trees to get over + through) - + down on immediately following hellish thro' thro' of beater snow. He yelled back "come on" - so I charged through + slid down like a dream a horse of night + left Fritz Christ at the bottom - + watched every other member of both

classes coming to follow grief. As was I do better if going like boys - with no time to think. He came to big place of train on outskirts of Innsbruck - to find we had missed 4.30 pm train + bus - so went to local "Hotel Schwanmuh" - small clean home - + shared a little of best red wine among the eight of us (total = 30 \$). Fritz taught us game of hitting + catching beer mat at edge of table. Then a 1/2 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 Fritz away. Both looked a trifle worried "he thought maybe there had been an accident. Daddy + we 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 Mt. St. Peter - + waiting.
 To make up - over the last - we sat over for tea - but main event was finding another letter from B? (postmarked Monday) - delighted - we

divorced it over tea. I read it out - when I paused the words ran in a trance-like voice "go on, go on".
 But first we looked in photo window (photo ready shop) + saw good night of ourselves. Went into Kitzbühel hotel - looks big outside - but obviously a local "dun". Then patterned round drinking beer + listening to an old fellow playing waltz well on a small harp. Had quite good tea, chocolate + 2 cakes - slightly above the Landhaus - beer (25.20 \$). One of the denizens 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 have them home in triangle - they're rather nice.

Boys not ready for dinner while I drank nasty wash in leg of Edinburgh dentist.

Wood dinner - boys ate well - Mr. had side, C. the usual way, + I beer. lot of chat - read a while in lounge - + at mine - glanced into bar at start of "Sundridge Ball" - candles on walls floating in oil in bottom of glass "stair" - gave C. a washdown at home - both happy to get + come down to lounge to write this.

Perhaps I originally underated Eglis - boys loved the news down this afternoon - "two nice 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 wait to B?.

Theme: light switches is "off for on": no tuck-in in bottoms or sides of bed clothes (usual big mattress things on top): almost square small oil-paintings of mountains + pleasant - in bedroom + landing - simple wood, strong - very satisfying + decorative.

Friday - Barrow - 11.00pm - 9th JAN

light bar open - but not objectionable - clear lots + sun almost came through. It never had been so.

Class as usual. Boys very happy in their - ? - it became they was all the races? Mr. was first in 1st race that am. - 4th in 2nd race - but boy's he got off to a bad start: C. was 2nd in both races - + very sympathetic about Mr's bad start which he complains.

Fritz in bill of a moose (for some winter season) - to class a bit hairy. He's from Ketchikan - is going to Koro - but - the morning

nothing new - I enjoyed it. A feature of the school is what they call "the second breakfast" - a period of very good preliminary physical 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 this requires that met I am very happy - and accident as almost non-existent - extend nothing like the time

cuties (e.g. none have we come - apart from a scrawled blonde).

Met boys a little earlier than usual - + strolled quietly to nearby shop where (at or? request) I bought a case of wax for the shoes (2.40 \$). Also bought two little cigarette "puffs-out" for 1.50 of each.

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

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

Went to Clarissa - four boys + two girls - they had a couple of miles + some "blizzards" of mud apparently. We set off as yesterday - rather early going towards Innsbruck - but ended at a small station called Aldrans, + got train home at 4:00 pm (fare 1.80 \$). Enjoyed it. One wine - cork for Fritz - a girl (we are now 6 in all) brewed herself a couple of tins on a stove - "we play balneomics". Picked boys up at Hofers -

looked this - back to hotel for traveller's cheques - found yet another letter from B. All greatly thrilled.

Called in Tourist Bureau - a delightfully decorated house - big bronze handles on doors - gaily paintings on walls - + got some Austrian cash.

Found photographer once more shut - so walked past ice-cream (small - a dozen photos - good - with music) + on to Hotel for tea. It is about size of Best Hotel - beside railway terminus - rather out of the way for skiing. Pleasant, fairly bourgeois - most comfortable + quiet tea-bar - will

only 5 other there - + a 3-piece band. Had usual choc. + tea - with small biscuit. (23.50 \$) - + read B's letter - + read French + German magazines + back to our hotel.

Was the band (3 piece) is absolutely first rate for dancing - a bit noisy - + played from about 4:0 till 6:30 + 9:0 till (then silent when).

Dressed lightly - drink - gave boys their first (small) glass of white wine - or didn't drink much - C. finished his, packed a good deal - + sat till 9:0 in the bar - at or? request.

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

Went out in lamplight next 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

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

Several new houses going up here + there - often (reached a pinnacle of small steep hill -

left completely open + unpushed till spring comes.

Fritz tells me that about April here we can go out + see a nice show 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 Kandelha bindings).

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

fainted - whole thing curled over 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 - or a rather low standard lamp.

Ref. also hotel notepaper as model for own (oblong + big). Sat. - lounge - 10.30 PM. 10/18/21

More snow - but quite pleasant not blinding - + cleared now + there; a bit wet + sticky for Fritz.

Called after breakfast + set photos + posted them off home (last) in Innsbruck; off to the school - Fritz in better humor - but soon after that took us to the

puberly (top of Patscherkofel) - good position - handy - sort of big + comfortable guest-house) - we had to drink a glass of red wine to celebrate the greivous + tragic loss of his wife yesterday evening!! After that dinner was easy +

ended with "Have a good evening" - which ended in bar of Hotel Hotel - where I was joined by C. + B. : drank an Ambrion + Wood Fritz a drink (total 20 \$) - then a good lunch.

At 2.15 caught local train (or tram) for Innsbruck (longer train) - total - whole way 4.40 \$

Better lovely run down - change at Pergau-Bell for train into city

cents (plain Thesauri House).
 wandered round under
 shellings - rather foolish -
 obviously for for postcards -
 big files - + did for a
 brilliant interspersed -
 but fine lovely Austrian
 artistic touches (e.g. huge
 ashtray as how the usual -
 tall & elegant & wrought-iron
 gate etc.). Bought one or two
 of these & more - then had
 5 cups of excellent coffee,
 3 rolls + piece of cheese (no
 butter to be had) for about
 25¢ in the Nation cafe (new).
 Found bidulup's shop -
 + bought a shell - pair of
 Mr. boots for 54¢; many
 as cheap as road - but not

such good value: made
 preliminary enquiries about
 boats + tickets - bought M.
 nice pair of canvas shoes -
 afternoon fare - so train
 back in date. 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 belts - washed
 boys hair - + ate excellent
 dinner. C. thoroughly
 approves of Missions - Kartoffel
 but in very bar (as usual) till
 first time was played - but
 drummer came in first +
 played frame peck +
 wonderfully - M. greatly

impressed at his versatility.
 C. rather more impressed by
 profit made for bottle of
 liquor!
 We boys into bed - + finished
 note to B? - miss he terribly.
 Monday: Boys have looked well
 in tonight in white shirts +
 long - hair well-plastered
 down etc. Have picked up
 a surprising number of good
 names at table - + we
 have wonderful conversations
 about everything under the
 sun! They're praising up
 quite a bunch + I mean
 occasionally too. Still - do
 wish M. was here - or I wish
 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 "Holeshot"
 for dance last night. Failed
 to get better but in appearance -
 not to affect "steady" - so
 went out about 11.30 - but
 smoke + noise terrific + did
 not feel like coming + dancing.
 Sat for a hour chatting -
 danced twice + came home
 at about 12.30: party went
 on till 4.0!

How again this am.: got
 Mr's wash - new boots for
 admirably - as if I'd worn
 them all my life - now

Beautifully soft + fondly -
 practiced long swinging
 floor turns - + made by
 watching part of cross-
 country race (Langlauf):
 race is 18 Km. - they do it
 in about 1 hour.

Food lunch: would have gone
 up to Pitschkehof - but thought
 it better to keep away from
 holiday crowds from Innsbruck.
 So we bought bread of light +
 some Kuchengut, + took bus up
 to chairlift as usual: all
 morning + afternoon C.M.
 have had lady ski with us
 all to themselves - they had
 a couple of good runs. We
 went off towards Batsch -
 through crops now -

thing of times but very
 lovely - + good practice for
 soft snow work: man just
 trying to break thro' +
 occasionally mountains
 appear thro' weathering clouds.
 Saw up towards Bismarck pass,
 also up Straital (could be
 one of its glaciers). Batsch
 village, Gutter etc. below us.
 Inland with fast chase thro'
 deep soft snow - very fluffy.
 Boys are playing at a
 jump when I found them -
 + doing very well at it (without
 tracks): had a few fairly
 good jumps myself.
 Tried to get to Batschbühel prison
 for tea: nice, clean, quiet,
 quiet - probably inexpensive.

but tea was dearest yet (tea,
 two chocolates, + large cakes
 [5 of each] - total 27.00 \$). Nice
 local railway station. Fairly
 handy. Incidentally found
 out that Fritz keeps a pension
 the Käländele; & after tea
 already dark, we strolled
 round + found it - rather
 out of the way for Bi-Keeve -
 but beautifully placed on
 edge of valley - fine view
 beyond into farm outside.
 Fritz has 3 daughters about
 our boy's age - if we stayed
 there, they could ski together.
 Home with lots of time to
 dress for dinner: rearranged
 inside clothing - M. wrote
 a l.c. to Clayton Olsson - I

washed a pair of boots (more
 for amusement than need).
 Showed M. how to get impression
 of sound on silver paper.
 Dinner excellent - I drank
 water (as we do now almost at
 lunch). Food has been quite
 delicious - lots of it. Boys
 specially thrilled because
 "padding" is so often in form
 of an elaborate "game" of
 some sort, he usually takes
 about 3x hour for dinner -
 which is phenomenal for
 C.M. Chat at on table
 still good. We change
 places with each other now
 + then: sit in a cosy corner
 good view - written in
 envelopes. - food beautifully

had usually as a central dressed dish for me to divide, waiter & waitress most pleasant & attentive - forming out our drinks & so on. They soon about advising me on cost of B&B drinks, etc.

Read magazines in lounge for 4 hours - then up to bedroom. Showered c.m. had to play "Noir ha'penny" on glass-topped bed table - then let them into bed - they're just now gone to sleep.

I went out for a moment to fetch a corn on the cob for a local gillie for m. Having out on clean, fresh & lovely - lamplight on sparkling snow - small

village fireplace - sharply cold.

Still dull without B&B - but feel "healthy" if not quite contented. Shall drop her a note + later on.

Henry: said wine will last night - total for week 111. \$.

Open pulling transport Hedges quite usual.

Pleasant bill - rmping at each hour from local clocks.

Just remembered that "Engelhorn", for whom we started to loggan run, isn't primarily a greenhouse but the "bill-station" of a farm in the valley - up to which the cattle (& the farm) moves.

When dinner comes & the hour departs upwards.

Monday - ice - Bedroom 10:45 p.m.

Clear day - fair and fine morning. Boys were "soaking" (: too tired yesterday) - do their thing up a bit.

Breakfast made excellent by getting a letter from Br. tho' the seams depended not to have got any letter yet. In so long that this post business is always to and from birds. The only solution is for her to be here.

Took camera (black rabbit still) out this am - took some hayfield shots on practice slopes. Possibly no good without colour. Boy & self

worked fairly hard: in in hatched.

Good lunch: 44 to cable railway for Patschi's hotel - boys being also (with instructions). Saw reduced for our party from 14.00 to 8.50 (48 for the hotel).

Took still camera. Exiting side up (to 7,000): talked to Dutch girl on way who had

staid at Berwang & Chamoni: boy & woman only for

expenses - very tiny - only 3 hotels - one small this town

as on practice slopes here. Saw Chamoni's appearance but

does not seem to think it especially so: stayed also

at small place near Chamoni (? name).

Incidentally some members of party not usually seen on Adalboden - ~~some~~ long distances to lifts - + queues at lifts etc. Some people love Javes + the baron.

Beautiful wall of mountains across valley above ~~landmark~~. Very cold at top; Bergstation not attractive - big - utilitarian - prices of drinks etc. high. Got a little in cafe to avoid the others coming up. Bergbahn on down.

Then out. First took us at first of the piste this deep, powdery snow - through heavily laden pine woods - beautiful - but cold - then

gone (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 fact (especially "The Gully") fine 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 + when I fell men 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 - it got cold.

Finally when we reached top of lower chairlift K222 we got the only really good run of the afternoon - glissade bashed across + across with foaled "chindies" the whole way + to down to practice K222 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 "clams" 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 own bar - with 3 cakes. Cost as "the moon" (tea + chocolate 21¢ : cakes 14¢) but warm, companionable, good music + danced twice. Instructress there with her own little girl, who asked M. to dance but he was too shy!

Boy talked to K222 (? who) about Japan etc. - + heard some Japanese words.

Then up for wash - + down for good dinner. Boys pleasantly sleepy - so took coats for a five minute stroll outside. - finished a comm. on the radio (to take home to Mummy!) - + in to bed at 9.30 pm.

Wants to, like red wine (or) at dinner). [local name for hot red wine is "glasseine"] 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 you.

Tuesday - 10.45 pm - lounge. 12th Nov
 Dec overcast morning - but with + coffee + chocolate welcome at

ever! Out to practice sleep - + new people in class (Canadian) - + children's class now up to 4. how nice - did nothing very strenuous - but felt well. At 10.00 am talked to instructors of C.P.M. - full of praise for their run from Bratislava 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 wind just blew down!!

Whole school going to joining 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 C.P.M., a practice sleep etc. - finished 5.0 - then parked this + off to 3.15 P.M. train for Sandvick. In up to 3.45 then bitterly cold. Called in bank + found out about savings account (easy + one gets 4.5% interest!). Then off to North Kirk where we had the food here to get the pants + jacket (each under £4) - also pair of gloves as present for Colin. Wounded badly to buy for a simple nightgown but both boys so strongly disapproved

that I was just off my stroke + didn't! They want a liquor set hanging on iron frame! Bought belly a better brush + washed into one or two quite elegant things we had missed before - beautiful use of plate glass "morned" to wood + bronze in big + interesting shapes: this especially true of glass - was sharp. Still no top about!

Found typical Austrian cafe in Museum House - had big cakes that were almost too sweet + rich even for C.!! Good hot chocolate with large mountain of cream on top. I had tea - all served with the addition of a glass

of most coats which was
 covered when finished: lots
 of magazines etc. (cost 29¢).
 Found a few really big & mush
 shoes in Museum. One
 interesting full-over for lady -
 golden yellow round body,
 black sleeves, black 3/4" edging
 round the heels of two
 pockets, black neck.

Then train at 6:15 pm. for
 Dept - somewhat happy with
 people getting home from
 business - bitterly cold
 outside. C. & I talked politics.

Dined - big dinner - with
 beer & orangeade - & sat in
 bar to see & hear more
 Popocean demand & a singer:
 boys enjoyed it. Lady

nealy greatly advised their
 pay shirts & belts. Drove
 a "stairway" - & so sleepily
 up to bed.

Lots, I talked in lounge to
 Olathe, who was a
 tropical medicine specialist
 - Army doing work - knew
 Jack Dinton etc.

A man today said he liked
 botany & that it was funny
 & near to P. Monty - if you
 wished to go in
 Wednesday - Bed (!) - 9:15 pm

woke abt 7:30 am. & boys
 shortly 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 shoes:
 found window had to shut -
 freezing had - i.e. "floods"
 on the inside of the panes.
 [Although the bedroom has
 four double doors, the windows
 are high].

took breakfast (no letters for
 yet). out by 9:30 am - bitterly
 cold (actually 15° below
 freezing point). No one on
 slopes but ourselves - on
 thumb especially were most
 painfully cold - M. shed a
 few tears, even. but warmed
 up with Yease. Cold
 continued a bit about 11:0 am.
 when sun was actually
 shining on us - & clothes
 kept off well - & boys like

practically very easy & happy.
 we fractured mainly turning
 with use of the sticks of
 difficult slopes.

traced the old on sunny wall
 of little hut at bus-stop -
 collected soil cores - took
 a few Kodak photos. C. &
 M. took a "skit" each!

Particularly good lunch
 (main dish a banana one
 of pork, ham, sausage,
 sausage etc.).
 Boys went off by car to
 Heiligasser chairlift where
 they enjoyed the views.
 we went up by cable car to
 Pötzscherspitze: cold & but
 Williams' sun on top.
 Monty took us round the

mountain this deep
lovely snow drifts - sparse
fines pine laden with
soft snow in huge "dollops"
& magnificent views of
Borneo pass, & the Tyrol
mts. (Jules, Kintai etc.) &
tiny villages in the valleys
(Kates etc.).

Across valley beyond 3 hrs.
I saw the guide in the first
glimps of him this am - &
it continues to get dim all
day long. It is a big hotel
on a high shelf - reached by
railway from here - possibly
8, or 9000 feet up - in the
moss: another "lift" goes on
up to Kafelekar above it -
the trip looks difficult.

it would be worth going up
(+ down) from here - if time
permitted

Down in 1st drive thru
trees - no fast runs -
then I think Fritz got
confused for he took us on
botanical run down to Kater
- quite well a performance -
thing impossible on icy
rocks - actually aided by
"riding on tails" - never
was so cool about the trip
with delay, & discomfort
inval 10. We can tell a
long way from here when
he went down at 4:00 pm
Might how was frightful -
cold intense - fingers,
feet - everything froze &

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

Easy sleep with cold when
I met boys in hotel, but
on white bread for first
time & had most gratific
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

After so an another toboggan
run tonight - but we are
basely looking for comfort.

Atte powerful dinner -
Eros d'œuvre, soup, venison
with chemical & lemon,
coquette potatoes, porgonzola
after it - & white Red
honey.

Atans, the waiter, most
kindly left the boys a
Ray Rogers comic & a couple
of illustrated papers which
he read quietly in the
lounge. All rested 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 - he
 finds that much cheaper
 than here. Travel up by
 train costs only 2.20\$
 each way. I like the idea.
 Had Kai's 85-down there.
 Would have advantage that
 we could go up to Berggabel
 easily.

Who only seems quite here
 that I ^{could} do some Kai-
 tours - at any rate, one or
 two day tours. Keep in
 mind for future - perhaps
 with C. Must keep.
 Thursday - 9.15 p.m. - Bed
 The letter from BT this am -
 so don't know yet for certain
 that he has heard from us in
 light!
 woke early - but boy & even
 keeper than usual - awake
 at 8.30 am. Woke
 morning - saw mt. tops go
 from grey to pink to bright
 red to white. Boy's delight
 that we shall be by ourselves
 & do as we like & when we like
 After breakfast went to Kuch &

explored: found fascinating
 corals - bought one - & a few
 other small odds & ends.
 Packed income to camera -
 wore black Kai-blouse - very
 comfortable & warm - big
 morning pockets. In Mitt of
 him, that with in air. If
 to cable car at 10.30 am -
 & went up to Heiligens National.
 Brilliant view across valley.
 Packs of deer's feet on snowy
 fields below. (Saw wood-
 pecker yesterday in woods).
 Set off on run towards
 him. Boy's surprisingly
 fascinated by walk & "kitties"
 thru pine-trees - & quite
 overjoyed by long thrilling
 run (about 2 miles) across

dipping fields into the
 valley: got the odd photo.:
 didn't know then about the
 big dips (sort of "notches") each
 falling 8'-10' - & were full
 of "kitties" that I was trying
 a "fast one" on them. They
 took this section at a tempo
 hard - 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 their icy
 drop or two - really
 appreciated. - esp. by C.
 Both doing amazingly well
 came down to feet that we
 decided we could catch the

11.45 train out of Innsbruck
 at Aldrans - + did so -
 to back in excellent time
 for lunch: brilliant sun.
 At the hall - discussed plans.
 Out again for 2.0 pm. called
 car to same station, boys
 picked down to get chairlift
 while I stayed to take care.
 followed this with a few
 descents - up again by
 chairlift till our tickets were
 done.
 Letting cold at 3.0 pm -
 got out again for same down
 till noon - but went
 further - to below Ahrns
 + managed to get 7.15 pm.
 train from Inns. at local
 station (Kloster). Again

the man was listed as
 "missing". Stood on outside
 platform on way home -
 examining radio masts of
 Radio Innsbruck, the small
 bathing place at Malssee
 (with census) + the bridge on
 at Lamssee. Both looks at
 if they could be very gay in
 summer - cleaning cafe's
 etc. (all that now).
 Home. Stopped in railway
 shop - bought 2 more coats -
 + one or two trinkets, packed
 this. Cold in valley tho'
 sun still on Seles, Ahrns
 Alps, Seequale etc.
 Popped (at last) into Kitz
 where we saw the happen set
 bought it at last - also

city lights. Boys the decided
 that - to celebrate their men
 I ought to buy them tea
 again in Post Hotel - though
 it is expensive - so washed
 a bit - + down for valley
 big cakes, chocolate, etc.
 Drinking tea - asked by lady to
 have a look at her trusted ankle.
 Did so later - the boy's Mischka
 + Tristram both cheer than
 here - + few others (2.0 for
 breakfast in bed): says food
 better there.
 Boys great favorite with boy
 man who "carves" a table for
 them when they come in! -
 also with Hans. Hans also -
 old maid servant on one
 consider who always takes to

stick their chairs as they
 pass - having "sessions".
 Didn't dance - much to
 M. & Tristram! For about 10.0
 6.0. up for good wash. Boys
 refuse to put on clean under-
 clothes!
 At tea, boy's instructions came
 over to chat - gave me her
 address in hopes that I
 might find her the odd
 photograph. Address is:-
 ERIKA HIRTL
 WIEN XIX
 ALGENSGASSE 2,
 before dinner, chatted about
 how camera works. Down
 at 7.30 pm for good feed -
 C. now armed with
 dictionary to help with men

Drinks bar to boys' average.
 but in bar afterwards. Boy
 helped woman to light candles
 for candlelight-dance tonight.
 "Candles" very cute. They are
 various brands of drink bottles,
 some off just below neck,
 leaving labels etc. on. The
 one inch. of two of inside is
 filled with candle-wax, &
 a wick in the middle. This
 alone would do - but in fact
 bottles bit is filled with
 sawdust. Must try this one.
 Above hotel various lamp-
 shades worth copying. One is
 wide disc - above light -
 with long cone-shaped shade
 below. wrought iron and
 difficult to copy - but

into effect from ceiling
 could be copied: flux of
 light is wound round with
 coarse twine - i.e. knots at
 either end.
 - Come downstairs to let
 boys get over to sleep. Band
 playing away - bar -
 8:30 - good dance music.
 Today saw small "bleb"
 on the ~~side~~ of a bunch
 of a green car: came over:
 found it to be a cute small
 green metal frog!
 French army wireless van
 factoring 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 look
 to take it relatively easily.
 B! "Plays" here for 10¢ -
 Christyford same price.
 But leaves here at 7:30 am
 on Sat. am. - probably won't
 stop at Inns. - to have
 decided not to bother about
 "faking" cash here - it
 would ^{mean} coming down tomorrow.
 Anyway (with Dannie to help

at Belfast end) not really
 necessary.
 Most girls "dies" for
 dinner here - a few of the
 men: a horry business for
 the poor, look for effort -
 & it all seems out of place in
 this ring tension: but is not
 sensible.
 News: Phil in Harshok -
 insurance who wants news of
 George Ransel (from H.I.) - in
 English - Office in Glasgow -
 low London address "Stephen
 London, Bayswater Court": if
 any news, write to:-
 ANNELIES MEISTER
 JOHN BRUCK
 SILL GASSIE STR. 19. Second
 floor.
 Memo: Large no. of bird calls

of all sorts outside hotels & homes - Menus almost tame.

Vams: Odd to find school children using blood bags of "brief-case" case - carried in hand - with two metal clasps to close them - in hand when we saw the woman. Saw only one child to bag on back.

Friday - 9.30 pm ^{10.00 AM} at table in corner of our floor.

Woke early - day forecast well - but high cloud came over - & it remained sunless - but hopefully 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 others are disappointed - a few are going up for some sort of tests in afternoon - better to keep boys away - for safety.

Off by cab to the station & off on now well-known run down to Khlon Aeras: one or two birds in cage, fete - no real damage. Very fast run - so lots of

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

Spent this - had a short stroll - still but clear day - & in for high 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 - & 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 - "hard & bounds" - "big" - with plenty of sides up hill -

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

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

To my great surprise - in

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

LUCIENNE VAN OVERLOP,
188 GRANDE CHAUSSEE,
ANTWERP.

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

Stacey Davies
& Cascube Trace
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,
stamp night - lamps
winking thro' snow-laden
fines - strolled a bit - boys
good - + in for last drink.
food meal - paid for week's
drinks + bath + 4 packs of
"Sunday Post" (abt. 70¢) -
everyone regretful at
departure. One quiet
waiter (? name) told me he
spends hours at his

parents café at St. Gilgen -
must call if there - nice
fellows. Pleased to find I
know the Salzburgerhof.

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

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

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

Talked in cable car this am.
to Sept, the best you get
this among teachers - tells
me he trained Spanish team
last year - two resorts in
Iberia (forget name) -
good snow - few hours yet:
would have fulfilled contract
at Aspen, Colorado this season
if virus had come in time.
[Cedar men complain that
all best Austrian pairs are
taken by Aspen or her valley -
for the money]. Works in
summer for Austrian Travel
Agency - last year for \$

into London for life in Rome. Was able to bring about £80 savings back from London, which he seems to think excellent. Looked for £8 a week, but did not. Sometimes up to £17 - but Income Tax reduced this.

Having party downstairs at present - giving out presents for the tests this aft. Must turn in - boys will be asleep by now - will be awake at 6:00 am. Leaving at 7:15 am: must say I welcome first part of journey back to Rome: Beautiful frontispiece walls - view of milk place - some part of

water - colour on base 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. - Munich Airport - 4:00 pm
called at 5:45 am: Karl's night: but boys sleep a bit - the washed closed beds + down for breakfast at 6:30 am. A bit of time to waste - but bus at door by 7:0 - kept on. Ran round to local P.O. to see if letter from by - but none by morning post; worried. Off at 7:30 am - really comfortable bus - each of us

has a rug - well heated - wicker on etc... Hills lighting up, lamb's going out. Through innkeeper - starts lit & already open (before 8:00 am). After lunch - a long difficult climb up thro' the mts... Though wise, & Reith (little mountain resort & lake) & on thro' lovely mts. to Seefeld where we stopped for 20 minutes for coffee etc.

Seefeld longer than Igh - lies on small flat plain & high mts. around - looks nice - but might have to walk far to the house. Beautiful snow - lots of it - powdery. Also a little Vienna probably.

Went into Hotel - had coffee rolls

but & pain (14.40 \$ each). Nightly small hotel, clean, good taste, beautiful chairs, walls etc... - on outskirts of Seefeld: lots of other hotels. About 4000 ft.

Scenery around beautiful high craggy peaks - on to Schranitz - a wood-ringed pretty village in a defile; has Austria customs & German customs with 50 military police: obtained big boxes from Germany with large trailers (sometimes 2).

Now more well up - mts. close & life beautiful: going down lovely gorge to Mittenwald. All around look so prosperous. Beautiful snow. Regposts to Oberammergau.

Through Hattenwald - quite big town, walls 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.

He was really strong - leaning from behind on poles in front of us - valley wide, lovely valley jagged peaks showing up.

Through Klais: hillside cuts about - as in bottom: road now winds down steeply - brilliant sun - snow using loud harsh hum at icy

corners: boys finish however.

Through Hornich: not at all all at all - big Olympic built up jump on left - saw a man taking it. enormous height (jump of about 120 metres). It is a sparse town in flat of the valley. Probably neighbouring Postarlsbach is the best part.

"Onion" spikes on churches. No forest about. Road now gently descending 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 rock fringes the left side of the road: vertical frozen waterfalls - & two tunnels - which pleased the boys.

Plain now broadens greatly - very flat - hay field or poles. Cannot understand absence of farmhouses - literally miles of open ground with only occasional hay - hut.

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

Through Ething: many big cows - this on top - pass us in opposite direction.

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

At 45 km from Munich we begin to climb again - road more interesting - pine forests - big clearings in between - no red sign of dwelling houses: no hedges whatever - on roadside or elsewhere.

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

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

Munich at last - at 130 km - but approach is through dingy depressing four miles. Big trees - a few lovely old

building - but depressing
on the whole.

There at airport - no word
of plane: had lunch: air-
port building huge & truly
magnificent - the inside
of a cathedral: lounge had
very comfortable seats - rd -
in hall lined with old
famous holiday miles.
Topsy has offices for airlines
all over world - but not
a plane: 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 off. Still
worried abt no news from
BT - if she has written to
Southway Hotel I shall not
get letter: have considered
cable - but afraid from
expense - which doesn't
matter - I don't think it
would cause anything but
confusion & alarm: had
intended phoning from
London - had "bounced"
on it mentally - but shall
just have to wait.

later - 11.15 pm - bed.

Almost interminable wait stretched
on to 6.30 pm, when finally we got
money from consul, hotel beds etc.
Have heard that every airport in
Europe is closed because of fog -

& Munich itself here 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 - cleared by light of new moon
struggling through mist!

Had dinner at airport 6.30 pm -
2.50 M. each (special price). Then into
bus - then Munich to Hotel Hansa
Kursaal in Fichtenhause - near main
railway, hardly a sleeping place -
no meals - forbidden outside -
but bedrooms excellent. We are
all sleeping in two very large
single beds put together - in
clean, well-furnished room -
warm - with "smoking" private

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.
Packed bags & immediately rushed
out (8.30 pm) to find "train" stop
for C.: many nice shops - toys &
candy & food - but train not in
windows. Arrived cheap (K3) -
lady's ones nice. Went into
National restaurant: C. & I had
lots of coffee, M. pot of chocolate,
& plate I had 1/2 liter beer. Coffee
& choc. 1.30 M. each beer 0.50 M.
Boy is well pleased. "Rolled home"
= good humor - have just
had a few biscuits & a orange
each in bed!!

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

P.S.: Got vom. 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 windows - all £150 each.



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

18th JAN

Munich - got to Munich at 11:30 waiting to board plane - at last! Great joy that I may have to go B? - if in time will phone in London.

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

There is 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 cheap mechanical toys - all good prices but reasonable. C. overpriced & could scarcely be pulled away.

At 11:00 am. bus turn clock
figures pivoting to climb
for 10 mins.

Made notes of a train system
for C.

Then back to hotel for bus at
1:20 - & off to airport.

Had lunch - hung about -
last plane said come - played
with all the toys on all the
kittens & gave our last
mackerel. How I do wish we
were off - as I am most
tenuously anxious to catch

7:30 from Euston
later - 12:20 am. Ameland Hotel
Bed.

Plane at last got off - but
from the first it was almost a
pohorn 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 eggs" for
whole journey - as timing was
"knife-edge" - & I remained
most anxious about B's.
Boys thoroughly happy -
Mrs. M. who was delighted

with whole trip.
heats & after wool handed
round at first. Later, a
box - beautifully wrapped
biscuits inside - savette,
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 drinks (all
free). Boys had lemonade -
I had black coffee - & felt
better after second cup. Also
offered & bought 20 pence
duty free (2/2) - & offered beer
etc. & sweets later - boys
had sweets & drinks - 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 pm.
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 stop.

Rounded Manchester - but
only stayed on plane in
afternoon (which I booked) -
thinking to go by 12:20 and after
sleep to Manchester. Will
see what B's says.

In by bus to Euston -
arrived 9:30 pm. (Cup of tea
free at airport). Various
inquiries about

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

We gave our courage to King in London & came by Liverpool tomorrow evening. By now 9.30 pm - discussed with Conic where we should stay (: Hawthorn - but far away). Had sudden brilliant idea of going to Cambridge - without

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

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

Very warm.

^{Monday} Monday - 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 Koro wash & baths - tidied - & arranged bags - made up parcel for Miss B. - & down to breakfast 8.45 am.

We ate well - good breakfast - joined by John Conic who was impressed by first stay in Cambridge. M. had fluffy wheat & Rice C. fluffy wheat & sausage & beans. I cone Koro & Koro - also, after chocolate.

Closed bags upstairs - down again - gave Miss B. parcel to hall-ports, wired B?, & off

feeling back on dry lovely day & helpings: "did" the toys & the rest of the shop - boys' hired kitchen left almost best. Found that Formica can be had on thick 6-8 ply base to any size - but is brittle stuff alone & difficult to "lay" - done with Bootick. If required, helpings will get me any size or shape - fairly dead. "Wanted" Linda - not so nice.

Saw a few interesting hand-photos - net. Especially close-fitting ceiling type. Bus to Oxford Circus - down to Hanning. Her boys have fill of gazing & playing. C. brought a

small wagon for his train
 after sudden celebration!
 over to Irish Travel Agency
 could not book beds - but
 may get them on boat, got
 plane tickets for Manchester
 cancelled (good job - I
 believe they are grounded
 by fog again!)
 on down by train -
 through home & beyond -
 nothing new to report by
 & over to Brasserie at Lyons
 at 12:15 pm for good lunch
 at 1/2" each. Still well!
 Then to Simpson's - as
 M. wants to buy a target face
 for his bow + arrow with his
 5/2. great good luck to get
 & I sailed full size fan of

first grade canvas for 15/-
 less than 2 price. kept it
 there to fins of bats.
 Tube to Harold's Square - did
 bookshop on Charing Cross Rd.
 including "Bette Roberts" where I
 bought a couple of bargains -
 & bought also we bought a
 book for Colin - as we all
 felt he had a sufficiently
 good present from America.
 After more things - thought
 of going to Odeon cinema -
 but time hardly sufficient -
 so had a gin + little top in
 company to top of Odeon
 cinema at last night -
 boys had ice - chatted
 then at 3:30 pm. called
 for target face at Simpson's,

M. chatted this to his
 brother & didn't get with
 it till we got in the train!
 Called for bags at Cumberland
 C. insisted on taking message -
 I the bags - got by train +
 got train in nice time. All
 feeling well.
 Train at 4:30 pm. - arrived
 joyed!
 M. & C. have devoted some
 "comics" which I bought at
 the station for them - have
 replaced all the lavatories -
 & are now playing well.
 C. motor + riding Colin
 free!
 Train 7:30 pm.
 leaving Liverpool. good
 journey: had good dinner

+ boys have travelled
 quietly: all well: to
 glad to be almost home +
 C. P.
 11:30 am - on Liverpool boat
 Hamilton - fog. Have
 learnt that all air flights
 have been cancelled!
 safely on boat - & got
 food cabins without
 difficulty. Tried to phone
 or write to say that boat
 might be late at breakfast -
 but efforts unsuccessful.
 Took children for oatmeal
 + rolls - kept coffee - &
 off to bed at 11.0. Shall
 turn in myself
 very happy: hope B. not
 kept waiting.

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