

Feb.

Königgrätz, the 4th ~~October~~ 1849

Dear good mother!

I have just received orders to be on my way to Italy within 48 hours, to join the 2nd Battalion. I therefore bid farewell for a prolonged period to the good mother and to all the dear brothers and sisters and other relatives.

Good mother, you will soon see two of your sons facing the enemy, and appeal to God for their welfare, as they pray daily for your precious well-being. May God grant that you can be proud of us (*that we are a joy to you*) and that it is given, after enduring the trials, for us to enjoy being near to you.

(Side note: I have waited in vain for blanket and linen; never mind - soon I will find a bed in a . . . ?)

The good Schnappel wrote me a letter a few days ago in which I read with infinite . . . of his truly angelic brotherly love. This good, honorable fellow can never see bad times, for his soul is too steadfast for tricky blows of fate to darken his days. I am truly proud of our worthy Schnappel.

There has been no line from Karl so far, despite my urgent written request and his verbal promise when we were together, which make me concerned for his well-being.

How is my good Jakob? I think of him often and ask Good for a future for him, whatever is in store for him.

My future station is Mantua, and since my regiment will now carry the name Great-prince Constantin, my address has to be adjusted ("modulated") accordingly so that the letters don't go astray. The news received here from our officers in Italy is depressing, insofar as there is no doubt about a renewed war.

I have seen and spoken with Captain Grimmich who lives here. He is married; retired, of course. Captain Plöbst is major in the regiment, which may be of interest to . . . (*Müller?*)

Through the anticipated . . . I should advance close to the rank of full lieutenant. I therefore must ask you, good mother, to look for a proper bride for myself, for as full lieutenant I must get married or I'll be getting too old.

For my trip I have to find 100 Gulden (*currency*). That is a real problem for me, because no one wants to give credit to officers. Yet getting the money at any price is absolutely necessary, because I had initiated the transfer myself and must bear the travel expenses.

I will appeal to Captain Grimmich in this matter tomorrow; perhaps he will come through with an act of friendship. It would be good and for me hugely desirable, if you, good mother, were to write a letter guaranteeing the 100 guilder to the Captain; that will be my fervently hoped for reference. I will be able to repay the debt myself, since my monthly stipend will be almost 80 xyz as soon as I arrive in Italy.

Kajutan is in

Greetings to

forever your thankful son Ludwig

lieutenant (*I think*)