

Addressed from Lieutenant Sternberger to  
Her Grace, Frau . . . *tiziers*widow

Johanna Sternberger of noble birth,  
Mühlsau  
near Kaaden  
Saazer County  
Bohemia

Wien (Vienna), 10th <sup>Feb.</sup>~~October~~ 1849

Dear Mother!

I arrived here today in good shape and will continue my journey to the regiment in Mantua<sup>1</sup> early tomorrow.

In my last letter I asked you to write to Captain Grimmich with a guarantee for 100 Gulden. This is no longer necessary since I got an advance from the Battalion and did not have to take any money from him.

Today I am going to the theater; will see if Wien is capable to live up to my standards.

I found a very pleasant traveling companion who will go with me as far as Vicenza, a 1st lieutenant A. Zettwitz with the Savoy Dragoons.

How are you getting along, good mother, and my dear siblings? I expect a letter in Mantua for sure within two weeks, with detailed news about everything.

I was terribly excited when the train passed by (*"überflog - flew over"*) the battlefield of Aspern. I am sincerely looking forward to the moment when I will have the opportunity to look death in the face the same as the brave men who fought that battle. Münzer, the brave Münzer, was recommended individually, posthumously, to His Majesty the Emperor for a decoration. I am as pleased about that as if it had been awarded to me.

Stay well, good mother, and greet all my dear ones,  
your thankful son Ludwig.

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<sup>1</sup> Footnote: Mantua is an old fortress city in the Po Valley, fought over by French, Italians, Austrians. It is immortalized in a well-known German ballad about Andreas Hofer, a South-Tyrolean patriot who led a number of successful military campaigns until he was incarcerated in Mantua and shot.