

The first two pages are in well-preserved crisp black ink, apparently addressed to Ludwig von Sternberger's mother by a military superior.

Your Grace!

While I am expressing my sincerest thanks to your grace for the present given to me, I am taking the opportunity to acknowledge the correct receipt of the 40zz intended to cover certain arrears incurred by your son. Of this I have sent, according to your worthy son's instructions, 28zz (*local currency*) to Czernowitz, 10zz to Zahoczyk (?), and the remaining 2zz for personal minor necessities.

If the General von Münzer in his gracious letter to me finds reason for the assumption that your grace's son does not sufficiently live up to the demands of the service, I must state my painful regrets at having been the innocent source of a gratuitous hurt to a sensitive mother's heart. I hasten to make amends by assuring you, that I have every reason, so far, to be totally satisfied in every respect with your son Ludwig von Sternberger. It is my wish for him, that he will continue with manly endeavor to continue his current good record. If he continues to display good diligence and conduct, his performance in commanding the administrative functions will offer him excellent opportunities for further advancement.

At the same time, I will give the same re-assuring notice to my distinguished former Chief, the worthy General von Münzer.

I sign, with high esteem, as your grace's most obedient servant Ing. von Schmitt, Captain. (*These are standard courtly formulas and adjectives*).

Second part of the same letter, on the same sheet of folded paper, in different ink and handwriting. Neither part is dated. Unclear passages are omitted.

Dear Hanni!

. If you would manage it, write me a detailed description of how life is going for you. You cannot imagine what joy every letter from home elicits in me and how it affects my disposition, even though it is only the written word that stills my longing. Such longing is perhaps the best outlet for a wild, sanguinic spirit. for some time I have been turned very much inward into myself, and it would be better if I displayed a more lively attitude

Many heartfelt greetings and kisses for everybody. You cannot believe how welcome every friendly syllable is, written by someone whom one sincerely loves and from whom one is separated by such long distance.

Often in the evenings, when I stroll up and down in front of the barracks, I look at the Carpathian Range and imagine it were our Sudeten Mountains. Then, when the moon rises clear and full, I follow its westward path, and not infrequently I succeed in conjuring up your images in the distant darkness. Those are the only agreeable hours in my life.

If there is to be a time when I can see all of you and live with you, I am going to approach willingly that which alone promises happiness.

Thusly, do not forget to send me a detailed letter, with special descriptions about Karl and family.

. always your loving brother Ludwig.