Brief aus Dentfchlaub.

Boften 111 bei Schleife d. 9. 1. 23. Lieber Freund Berbard, beinen Brief habe ich erhalten und frent mich bon bir gu boren. Roch bem Rriege bat mir John Miertfdin dnen Brief geforieben, fonft niemand 3ch tann mich beiner noch Chus gut erinnern, bu marft uns dumer ein luftiger Befelfchafter and ein guter Blafer. Much babe in Bolfsblatte von bir und gu-4 Meich beiner Rapelle gelefen. 3d Setam Das Bibbings Deutsche Wolleblatt best bem Rriege regel. maßig febe Boche. Bie bu weift de se im Sabre 1001 nad Beuticiand, bas mar in ber Som. merbite, auf ben Dampfer Rober. Wei, bas war ein Rrachtbampfer, Sonmole und Beigen murben Wriaben und gulest Baffermele. & Wu. Diefe große grque Relonen, Siche find bei Berbin fa nicht. Die if eften Rage war auf ber See auch ft feir beif, auch feetrant waren mel- fe ge, ich aud. Bir batten gutes Better. Die Reife gur Bee bau- 3" mit 23 Tage. Reine Trompete, 3 Bie ich mit bette, habe ich an einen D Ratrofen bertauft für 4 Dollar. Guen Countagnadmittag tamen |m wir aufe Land. Die vielen bub. ft fen beutiden Dabden, bie ma- Ri ren wirflich fcon nub fonntage De magig aufgepatt. 3m Buge wur. be ben uns fuße Rirfden angeboten, fal es war die Ririchzeit. 2 3abre ba-Be ich Mufid mit gemacht. 1904 bei tom ich an bie Eifenbahn und 1908 ift Babe ich geheiratet, meiner Rran lot the Dabden Rame ift Maria Di. me lid and Clamer, bei Sprembera. Ta fle ift 13 Jahre junger. Wie baben 34 ein Rind eine Tochter, Die ift in Etellung beim Grafliden Rotter Ep mit Ramen Bofd in Reula, bei Ruftau. Eine Fran gu friegen ift Re in Deutschland nicht fomer, felbit, Ra Raifer Bilbelm bat im Robember bal

Letter from Germany to Gerhard Biar in Thorndale

Post 111 near Schleife on 1/9/23.

Dear Friend Gerhard, I received your letter and was happy to hear from you. John Miertschin wrote a letter to me after the war but none other. I remember you well as you were a happy associate and a good wind player. I have also read about you and your band in the *Volksblatt*. I received the Giddings Deutsche Volksblatt quite regularly every week before the war. As you know, I went to Germany in the year of 1901 during the heat of summer aboard the steamer Rodernei, a freighter onto which were loaded cotton and wheat and, finally, watermelon. Such large grey melons are not known in Serbin. It was very hot during the first few days at sea and some became seasick, me too. We had good weather. The sea voyage lasted 22 days. I sold my trumpet, which I had taken with me, to a sailor for 4 dollars. We arrived at land on a Sunday afternoon. The many pretty German girls where nicely dressed up and in Sunday tradition. Since it was the time of cherry harvest, we were offered sweet cherries on the train. I was involved in music for 2 years. I went to work for the railroad in 1904 and married in 1908. My wife's maiden name is Maria Milisch, from Slamen near Spremberg and, she is 13 years younger than I. We have one child, a daughter, who holds a position in Kensa near Muskau with the count's forest warden by the name of Wosch. It is not difficult to find a wife in Germany and even Emperor Wilhelm has married, again, to a young widow, in 1922.

1922 wieder eine junge' Wittme ge-Beitatet. Best ift bier Tenerung, aber im Briebenszeiten murbe biel meggemorien. Dan tonnte auf ber Strage Studen Brot finben, auch Butft und Sped und bei Zangmu-. fld murbe bas Bier wie Boffer rum gegogen. Schullinder haben fo wiel Brot meggeschmiffen, bag ber Mebrer ein Cowein bamit fattern Bunte. Rest wird für beutiche Rinber gefammelt, felbft Baide, wenn ein Taidentud idmubig, mutbe es weggeworfen und ein neues getauft. Man tonute wenn man ber Mahn entlang ging fomunige Ba. bi iche finden, Unterhofen, Bemben 10 und Strampfe, alles noch gut, 3 Blos fomutig. Auch Müten, ba'e ff Ragen ufm. Rach beiner Betminbtichaft werbe ich mal nachfraei gen, ich habe einen Schweger in pofen, Bani Milija, Wir hat

ten bis fest bier noch teine firenge Ralte, immer gelinbe. Bei ben er. Bauern ift bie Tenerung eine gnie fer, ben Sache, die betommen für ihre tio. Banbesprodudte einen fcouen Baben Geld, fie haben bas gerne en. Die fe mander ift baburd Schulben uch frei, ba man fruber nichts vertan el- fen tonnte. Lieber Freund, ich muß balb jum Solus maden, jmar habe ich Beit genug Briefe gu fchreiben. te, Die Bauern haben nie mas meggear. worfen, aber immer alles jufam. men gehalten und gefpart, tachtig fe B. gearbeitet bon fruh bis in bie Racht, bei benen ift auch tein g Mangel an nichts, wo tüchtig geare m ir. beitet wird, ba ift auch ju Glen, fagt die Bibel. Bei ben Bauern' gibte teinen 8 Stunden Tog, fon- g der manchmal 16. Die Tenerung te ift eine Strafe Gottes an bas gott- 8 lofe Boil. 3d blafe noch immer ju if, meine Erompete, aber nicht jum fte Tang fondern jum Beitvertreib. 8 in 3d gebe fleißig jur Rirche, habe 1 Stunde ju geben, bis nach ge er Spremberg, wo ich bingebore. 3d muniche bir viel Glud jum De Renjahr. Edreibe mer Autwort. g, Rannft ben Brief jum Abbrud an un das Bolleblatt ichiden. in Dein D. Bantichte. fio i ten Now we have inflation but, during more peaceful times, much was just thrown away. One could find remnants of bread on the street, also sausage and bacon and with music for dancing, beer was sloshed about like water. Students would throw away so much bread to enable a teacher to feed a pig. Now collections are made for German children while in the past even under ware or handkerchiefs, if dirty, would be discarded and new ones purchased. Walking along the rails, one could find soiled clothes, underpants, shirts and socks, all still good but dirty. Also hats, [collars, etc. I have a brother-in-law, Paul Mitisch, in Saxony and will enquire about your relatives. We have not had a hard freeze until now, always light ones. The inflation is a good thing for the farmer since they make a good clump of money on their farm products and they like it that way as many are now debt free, while they had difficulty selling things in the past.

Dear friend, I will have to close shop soon but still have time to write letters. The farmers have never thrown anything away but kept everything together and have saved, have worked hard from early in the day into the night and there is no shortage for them and, as the Bible says, whoever works hard will find something to eat. With farmers there is no 8 hour day but occasionally 16. The inflation is a punishment heaped upon the godless nation by the Lord. I still blow my trumpet, not for the dance but for my own distraction. I diligently attend church which is an hour's walk away, in Spremberg, where I have membership.

I wish for you much luck in the New Year. Please write in reply. You can send this letter to the *Volksblatt* for publication.

Yours M. Hantschko

Translated by John Buerfeind