

Netherlands
10/11/65

TRIP VII to SOEST (and including INTERKAMA at DUSSELDORF, GERMANY)

9 October 1965. I got to Logan Airport about 45 to 50 minutes early. Pan Am, as usual, had seats pre-assigned. They gave me 13A, which means it is about in the middle - Pan Am starts numbering at the back, if I remember correctly. I decided not to argue. I'll wait and see what it is like on the plane. It is about 5 minutes to loading time. I didn't remember, but apparently we load directly onto the plane from the airport lobby. There's certainly a large number of youngsters here - all of them seem to be going on the plane. Keep your fingers crossed.

I just noticed on the BOAC departure board a flight to San Francisco on the way to Tokyo. We ought to look into that. Looks like a single plane without transfer. Listed as Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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Well, there aren't many people on this plane. Many people have 3's. As we were settling down in our seats four fellows right around me - and I had a 3 all right - decided they wanted to have a bridge game all the way across. After we took off and got into the air, seat belt sign off, I made the excuse of going to the head. Sure enough, way back, row #6 empty on the A side. So I went back and made a very generous gesture and told them I would let them have my seat there to play their bridge game and would go back into a seat behind. Looks like I ought to be able to sleep if peace and quiet is needed. Directly behind me is an elderly couple, quite timid apparently. Directly across is a girl that has a 3 to herself. Directly ahead is a man with a 3 to himself. And the only other people I can see are across and ahead one seat and that's another elderly couple.

They told us they were going to give us a dinner and I asked

for my usual gingerale beforehand, but before I could have that I have the arms out of the seat, 4 pillows and a blanket, all ready to curl up in. The captain says that there is so much traffic over the Atlantic that he can't be sure what altitude he is going to be flying at. His flight plan altitude is 33,000 ft.

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In London Airport. Fairly long connection, since the Pan Am flight got in on time. Relatively few people here. Everything worked out fine on that seat. I got a very nice sleep. I didn't really need the ear protector for voice, but I felt more comfortable with it on and so slept all the better - I guess I did sleep pretty soundly because I went right through breakfast, but there is a chance to eat a little breakfast here at the terminal and since they will take American money I guess I can do it.

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Well, I'm in the Hooge Vuursche in . Maarten met me at the airport after a long wait for my baggage to come through. I had no problem at all going through the customs. Maarten rushed me over where we checked in to this hotel, which I'll describe later. I took some toys out of my bag and we rushed over to Ike's where Al Isaac and Gerry Gleason were anxiously awaiting for the photograph I had brought from America. They were to leave shortly afterwards for Dusseldorf.

I gave the Isaac girls the flexible man, much to their delight and they were still playing with it a half hour or so later. Then after talking some about general situations, Maarten and I left to go over to his house, where I gave one of the super-balls to his girl, but of course everybody played with with perhaps Maarten

more than anybody else. So tonight I promised to send a second one home tomorrow by way of Maarten.

Maarten and I then went for an enjoyable walk in the woods with their little dog Molly, who recognized me very quickly and barked only about three times before realizing that this was a friend. We went back and had a delightful supper, looked at some of my stereo slides, also at some TV, and then they brought me to the hotel.

This room is about 12 x 18 feet with a wardrobe placed at one end with a hanging rod and shelves. The bathroom, and you can probably hear the echoes in it as I talk, is about 8 x 12 feet - has a bath-tub raised up off the floor with a hand shower of the European type. There are two large washbasins with a 2 x 6 ft. mirror them and good illumination for shaving. A little chrome-plated Kleenex tissue box is attached to the wall. I'll describe the Hooge Vuursche tomorrow morning when there is more light but this is the place set back off the road in the woods land. As you enter it there are several fountains lit be colored lights at night surrounded by bushy trees in the oval driveway. -- I just noticed the bathroom door has a double function. When opened it swings around and closes off the hallway into the room with a hand bolt. Monday morning - 11 October 1965. Heavy overcast and the Frankfurt Armed Forces Network Station says it is supposed to be cloudy over all of northern Europe. (I think I forgot to say that yesterday was a beautiful cloudless day and apparently Saturday had been also, so the people were in a very good mood.)

Yesterday I had a nice little lesson in the Dutch language. I was talking to Maarten's wife, Ans, about the way things have grown

this past summer. They were talking about their apples and I was talking about all of the acorns all over the ground in our yard. She looked at me a little confused and after I explained what I meant by acorn, she explained that the word akorn (?) in Dutch means squirrel! She could see how there might be a lot of squirrels around but not underfoot so that you walked on them all over the yard.

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Back in my room at the Hooge Vuursche. Ate dinner tonight in a Chinese restaurant with Bill Tinlin, Maarten Niermeijer and John van der Noen. After dinner and a long discussion we came over to the Hooge Vuursche in the "Pit", I believe they call it, Lounge - there was nobody for the first hour or so and then quite a few other people along about eleven o'clock started to come in. About 9:30 or 10:00 I got my little radio to take down so that Bill could be listening to the World Series Game while we were arguing. Of course it stopped all our argument, but then we talked quite a bit about baseball, with Bill explaining to Maarten and John the arrangement of teams, the leagues, and some of the language being used describing the game.

In the Chinese restaurant we had discussed many of the problems of the Company in a room all by ourselves and as we left Bill paid the check and Maarten and John van der Noen discussed with the waiter in Malay whether he thought he had gotten enough tip from Bill. The waiter's Malay seemed to be extremely good and Maarten and John had quite a long discussion, much to the amusement and amazement of a Dutch couple and of the waiter's Chinese boss.

Tuesday morning, 12 October 1965. High cloudiness again. BBC had quite a discussion of the fact that over almost all of England it is clear sky and has been for a day or two and they expected for another couple of days. They seem to be quite surprised.

Tuesday evening -- Back in the hotel after an evening with the Burnetts. Had a very delightful dinner. Reda was home with a couple of extra dogs. (?) We looked at a few of my stereo pictures after dinner but mostly watched TV, almost all of it being American movies or British TV. There was one musical jazz type singing program from Holland but two girls were singing English all the time. The English language is certainly heard a lot hear the hotel. I don't think I have heard anything but English except when Maarten, Bill and John were with me last night.

Radio tonight, after I had gotten in the room here, I picked up a Dutch station but there were American musical selections on it.

In Japan I can select American or Japanese generally on the radio, but the songs on almost all these stations are the familiar songs, a great percentage of them being sung in English exclusively, or alternate English and Dutch, or English and German, or English and French. Sometimes the songs are exclusively in one of the European languages.

Wednesday morning - looks like it is going to be a beautiful day. Armed Forces Network said it would be all over Northern Europe - there's a fog hanging over this part of Holland now but looking directly up you can see blue sky. Temperature is about 5°C. They expect it to get up to 10 or 12°C today.

There seem to be at the Hooge Vuursche only three groups, if you

can call them groups. One is a fairly large one, the second one is a man, his wife, and young business partner, and the third would be counted me, I guess. The large group, as I look at it, is obviously a worldwide organization meeting. This morning for the first time I noticed the Japanese. A car that several of them just drove off in is a German car and from the various pronunciations I have heard at breakfast I would say most of Europe is represented and of course the noisy American. In fact I guess there are two Americans - there's one or more Englishmen. It will be interesting to see if I can learn who they are with.

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Back at the hotel - Wednesday evening about 5 of 9. Last night when I got in here I smelled a kind of sweet smell and saw dead mosquitoes all around, now I know why. The windows were wide open and about 3 million mosquitoes in the room. That must have been a spray they used here last night and they haven't gotten around to it yet tonight. I guess I can sit outside and do some reading and dictation but I've got to get somebody to spray the room - either that or sleep all the way under the blankets tonight. The only problem is there are enough of them to take the blankets right off of me if they want to.

This is quite a place. I came out to sit in the hall at a table with a table lamp and just now a mouse came up and sniffed my toe and then without making a sound ran off into the shadows. --Well, the girl just went by me and went through the mottled glass door and I could see her opening the door to my room. I could see she was carrying something in her hand, maybe it was a spray bomb.

That girl did have a bug bomb with her. She used it in the hallway outside of my room to kill the mosquitoes that came out during the brief time she had the door open to go in and come out. My friend the mouse has not shown up again. Probably if I put some food out he would eat off my hand - he seemed so friendly.

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Well, back in the room. There were still about 3 thousand of those 3 million mosquitoes alive, so I took a face towel and went to work. Quite a few spots on the walls and furniture and it looks as though I'm down to pretty near zero. Listening to the World Series, the 6th game - oh, oh - there's a mosquito - got him - they are so interested they are tying up a trans-Atlantic cable for the Armed Forces Network to broadcast these World Series Games - don't want to take any chances on radio trans-Atlantic transmission being in any trouble in the middle of a World Series Game!

Sure a funny way of making beds here. The bottom sheet is put on as normal, the top sheet and the blanket on top are folded under on the sides so that they lap in and don't tuck in on either side. Not quite sure what you are supposed to do but I know what I do - just throw the blanket and sheet edges out to the side and I'm all set.

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John Burnett asked me if I would go out to dinner with him and Beulah since they were eating out. As we left the plant he explained that they were planning on going to the Officers Club at the Base. It turned out when we got there that their kitchen had been shut down in order to change over to gas stoves, so we had to go somewhere else. After spending 55 or 60 cents on the one-armed bandits we went over to a place called The Swan, I think. Here John and Beulah got fried shrimp (scampi) and I got a fancy sounding dinner, costing

about half as much which turned out to be a true Dutch dinner. It was a chop of some sort plus a meat ball plus sauerkraut and mashed potatoes, and ^abig piece of something that was very close to Canadian bacon. Also I got a very tasty soup to start with and a nice dessert at the end. The dessert was a Dutch version of a chocolate sundae - the chocolate was shaved from a chunk of chocolate and the ice cream and whipped cream were two scoops side by side.

Rather than going back to the Burnetts I asked them if they could leave me off at the hotel early and then I came in and fought off the invasion of bugs and animals. I listened to the ball game while smashing mosquitoes - they came out about even - the end of the bugs and the end of the game.

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10/1/68 Thursday morning - I'm not getting very much on this Dictet.

A very, very foggy morning. Ø I'm going to finish off this tape.

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