

DorleLettersC L0001 (English)

Toronto, Nov. 11th

Dear Mom! Thank you so much for your letter, I was very happy to receive it. It's really okay if you can't write that much; maybe Frenoch Bärbel can give an update now and then. Yes, if only the political situation weren't so tense. It really looks bad. The general opinion here is that it's going to start soon, though not with atoms. That would be terrible for you all in Europe, but for us here, too—just sitting here while things are blowing up over there isn't nice either. But maybe it will drag on for a while longer. Here in Toronto, they are practicing the partial evacuation of the entire city; traffic will then be directed by helicopters. On the streets, there are signs at the side of the road saying that this street will be closed to the civilian population in the event of an enemy attack. Hopefully, Ursel will have some success; I really wish that for her. You write that she will then only be doing light work. Would that be forever? Or just for the first while? Is it a psychiatric hospital? That they read the mail? What does that have to do with the treatment? Do you think it's somehow hereditary, or just from overwork? Wasn't there an Else Eberling who also had trouble with her nerves? Or is she not a blood relative of ours? I don't understand how something like this can just happen, especially since Ursel never had anything like this before. Maybe she should have been forced to get help in the early stages? But you would know better, since I wasn't there to see it.

[Text written vertically along the left margin] ellen can't send it until the 24th, then it will be there by the 10th at the little church. It's funny that Christel and I, Bärbel and the others hardly sing anymore. Although the girls who are younger here don't know too many songs either. But we've already taught them a lot. Well, I'll be sure to teach Liesel how to sing when she goes on a trip with me. I can actually manage to sing for 4 hours straight in the car. Especially when Gisela is there. Yes, the Scouts are quite widespread here, but more so the boys. Otherwise, for the boys and girls, there are mainly clubs through the schools or the churches. But still, among the Germans, it's more about the community of Germans—for single people as a substitute for family, for the little ones so they can learn German (or not forget it). Inge and Klaus have been back for two weeks. They had a good time and were also very spoiled. But they are quite happy to be back here. What they really noticed was the undisciplined driving in traffic. I've heard that from other people, too. Klaus and Inge had an Opel from Inge's father. Then the men in shorts, the high prices, the unfriendly service in the shops—well, I'm curious to see for myself. Inge brought back a knitting machine, so we're doing our own knitting now. Last week at the cottage, we tiled and painted the bathroom. In October, I'm going to Insel in New York over a long weekend. If I take 3 others with me, it only costs \$3 each for the fare. It's 500 miles (800 km). I actually loaded a film from Insel; I took a few photos with it. I don't know if Liesel has sent any yet. She really likes New York, but I don't know if I'd want to be there. Warm regards, Inge