

with nothing accomplished except a liberal education for a lot of people on how it is to do business with the Soviets.

#### Trip - London to Frankfurt

Thursday  
10-4-45 At 1:00 PM Mrs. Randolph Churchill and I picked up the Ambassador at the osteopath (my osteopath and also General Eisenhower's and Stettinius') and drove out to Bovington for our trip back to Moscow by way of Frankfurt, Berlin, and Vienna.

We took off at 2:22 PM London time, in "Grandpappy". Passengers:

Ambassador Harriman  
Kathleen Harriman  
Lt. Meiklejohn, USNR

with our regular pilot, Vernon Wright, and his crew. We flew over Dover and Brussels and arrived Frankfurt at 4:51 PM - flying time 2h 29m.

#### General Eisenhower's Residence at Bad Homburg

We drove past Frankfurt, which sprawls along the River Main somewhat as Stalingrad does on the Volga, to Eisenhower's residence in a suburb some fifteen minutes from town, in Bad Homburg, a beautiful rather hilly locality with elegant homes and an abundance of trees. It was reminiscent of Babelsberg but more up and down, with rivers and trout streams instead of lakes, and the trees just turning color.

The General's residence is a three-story house, not much to look at from the highway entrance where the house is concealed by trees, but quite attractive from behind where a fine lawn drops away to a trout stream and small lake, with in the background a tree-covered hill, and many pine and other trees on either side. A very rustic setting - rock gardens, a tiny greenhouse connected with the residence, and large scenic windows.

#### A Memorable Birthday Dinner

The Ambassador and the General went down to the stream, which is stocked, and caught five trout for dinner. It was no great tribute to their skill, however, as they used canned beef for bait. The trout were very tasty, as was the rest of the dinner. The General has two negro enlisted men as servants, and a couple of German females for cook and maid. He complained that they were so afraid of him that he could hardly ever get to talk to them. Every time he surprised them in a room and asked a question, they scurried out in alarm.



Mr. John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, was the only other dinner guest aside from the General's staff. I was amused somewhat by the fact that the General seated the dinner table with Kathleen at his right, and me at his left. His aide, Lieutenant Kay Summersby, WAC, was at the other end of the table with Mr. Harriman on her right and Mr. McCloy on her left. This worked out to leave Kathleen and me in the armchairs with the Ambassador and Mr. McCloy in straight chairs. It doesn't take much to entertain me.

A very pleasant and friendly dinner. In later years I will probably be telling how I had General of the Army Eisenhower, the Assistant Secretary of War, and the Ambassador to the USSR to my birthday party.

For all his tremendous power and historic status, the General is an extremely pleasant and entirely unpompous person. It is good to know that we have a system of government where such men can reach high office.

The conversation during the evening, to which I might be more accurately described as a witness than as a participant, was interesting and enjoyable.

#### Zhukov's Aborted Trip to Washington

A subject of interest to all was Marshal Zhukov's sudden illness which prevented his going to the United States as a return of General Eisenhower's trip to Moscow. All the arrangements had been made for Zhukov's trip, and Eisenhower said he had seemed very keen to make it. The timing of Zhukov's illness just after the impasse reached at the Council of Foreign Ministers made all feel that it might be a "diplomatic illness." This feeling was reinforced by General Clay's experience in Berlin where all the Soviets had suddenly clamped down on their cooperation with the British and Americans. The Soviets never do things by halves. When Stalin is mad at you everybody from the doorman to the bus conductor is mad at you.

The General told an interesting story of the arrangements that had been made for the Zhukov trip. At first, Zhukov had insisted that General Eisenhower travel with him in the same plane. When the General refused, Zhukov demanded that General Lucius Clay, Commander in Berlin, travel with him. When this, also, was turned down, he insisted that General Eisenhower's son accompany him, and in the General's own plane with Eisenhower's crew, which was agreed to.

At first, Zhukov put in to take five bodyguards, but when it was pointed out that the plane could not safely carry the entire proposed party, he reduced the bodyguards to three, and General Eisenhower agreed that General Clay could accompany the party as far as New York City. This made two hostages and three bodyguards. Zhukov evidently attached greater importance to the hostages than to the bodyguards.



The foregoing is an interesting contrast with the fact that Molotov traveled to the United States in Ambassador Hurley's C-54 for the San Francisco Conference without any hostages. General Eisenhower says that speculation is current in Berlin that Zhukov has been picked as Stalin's successor.

#### The Ferocious French

Comment on Senator Harrison's charge that the Jews in Germany were still being kept in camps no better than the German concentration camps, which Eisenhower says is a bare-faced lie, led him to state that he would refuse to turn over any more German prisoners to the French, even though they needed them to mine coal, because the French had to his personal knowledge at least fifty Dachau's in operation, and starved the prisoners so much that they soon proved incapable of useful work.

He spoke of one such camp that he had seen where we had turned over to the French three blankets for each prisoner, and an overcoat for each. None of the prisoners had an overcoat and there was only one blanket for seven men. He said that, from his experience, the French were the most cruel of all the people he had dealt with. Our censorship has apparently kept the American public from knowing much that has been going on here.

#### The Atomic Bomb

General Eisenhower mentioned how he had hoped that the war might have ended without our having to use the atomic bomb. Mr. McCloy, in speaking of the problem of controlling the bomb, said that what most alarmed him was that the same scientists who two years ago said we were on the verge of preparing a bomb which would be equivalent to twenty-thousand tons of TNT now said that in two years more we should have a bomb equivalent to twenty million tons of TNT. He didn't know whether they meant just a bigger bomb, or a bomb of a new type. General Eisenhower said he thought the improvement would be mainly in the efficiency of the explosion, getting a greater percentage of the possible explosive effect.

I asked whether the scientists figured that they could control the explosion, and Mr. McCloy said that there were some who were afraid it would start the atmosphere burning, a rather unpleasant prospect.

Much sarcastic talk about the Navy's reluctance to try the atomic bomb on a battleship. Mr. McCloy said one thought was that the bomb should be exploded under water, thus melting the bottom of the battleship, but the Navy is alleged to claim that this would start a tidal wave and boil all the fish in the vicinity.



My main problem while listening to the conversation was to keep the General's Scotty, called "Telec," from climbing inside my uniform coat. He is allowed everywhere, and the only way to keep him quiet is to feed him ice cubes.

The General is irked because tomorrow he has to go to Holland and must travel by train as he is lunching with the Queen on Saturday. It is only an hour and a half by air, and eighteen hours by rail, but he must travel by rail as weather might close in if he tried to fly. His special train is compounded of Hitler's and Himmler's, but he says he doesn't like it. It probably gives him bad dreams.

#### Military Strategy

Speaking of the wartime strategy on the Western Front, Eisenhower mentioned his concern that the Germans might have succeeded in transferring enough forces to the south to make a stand in the mountains, which captured documents showed had been their purpose.

He noted also that Zhukov had admitted to him that the initial German attack on Russia in June 1941 had surprised them, they had not believed our warnings, and that the Soviet troops in the west had been trapped on training maneuvers with most of their heavy artillery in storage dumps in the rear. They had one week warning of the attack, but this was not time enough to allow them to distribute their artillery and heavy equipment properly. They had anticipated a German attack eventually, but not in the spring.

#### Trip - Frankfurt to Berlin

Friday 10-5-45 Mr. Harriman went to General Eisenhower's office in Frankfurt, and Kathleen and I had the house to ourselves all morning and for lunch. Very peaceful. A bright, clear day, and I wrote some letters.

We drove to the airport where we met Mr. Harriman, and took off in "Grandpappy." The passengers were:

Kathleen Harriman  
Lt. Kay Summersby WAC  
Lt. R. P. Meiklejohn USNR

We took off at 2:40 PM and arrived at Tempelhof Airport, Berlin, at 4:10 PM after a flight of 1h 30m, only to be met by Mr. Harriman who had hitched a ride on Mr. McCloy's C-54.