

Örebro
March 30, 1922

Dearest Mamma,

Once again you [Mamma] have shown your incomparability! I have just returned from the Post Office with Mamma's box of "mums-mums", which I hardly need say were very welcome. Thank you, dearest Mamma! By the time they are all gone, it will probably be time for me to go home.

Only 9 days left! It is completely unbelievable! The days are really demanding---long maneuvers and shooting-practices---help the days to fly. I no longer think about how boring and physically demanding they are.

Winter, which I had hoped was over, is still hanging on. Today it snowed constantly and is quite deep.

From one thing to another----I wonder if Pappa would like to write to Captain Lydahl for me about my room in Malmö. I have completely forgotten the name of my landlady there. When I left, she promised me that I would be welcome to return whenever I wished, and I am sure that Lydahl would be willing to arrange it for me.

Tell Kalle that I received his letter yesterday and will answer it the first chance I get. I assume that he is fully taken up now with photography every evening. How is Sven doing in school?---

They are playing taps and I have to show up.

Good night, my dearest Mamma----thank you again!

Mamma's own Sam

P.S. I have to wait to mail this until I can scrape the postage together---am completely broke!

SW

Hamilton House
Naugatuck Conn. April 2, 1922

Mrs. Colonel Wiberg
Stockholm!

Dear Mrs. Wiberg. Peace!

Hej: thank you for the letter [from] a long time ago. Should have answered before, but haven't managed to because one has not had the quiet, or had a permanent assignment, and then it is difficult to settle one's thoughts to letter writing.

Have been traveling since I left Sweden and now Captain Johnson and I are here in Naugatuck to establish a new corps. It is a beautiful little "town"* or a small city. 15,000 inhabitants total, of which 1500 are Swedes, so the troops won't be many, but we are hopeful that when "the dawn of Eternity breaks the veil of twilight", that the harvest will be greater than we could foretell. Temporarily we are staying at "The Boarding Home for Girls"*. It is very nice in every way and it isn't so expensive either, while we are looking for a place for quarters.

We were in Springfield for 3 weeks after Captain Norén said farewell and while Captain Lundstén was ill, and I must say that Norén left the corps in terrible shape, not less than \$800.00 in debt, and with trust in the Army in grave danger. He did not want to take another position, but the Colonel sent him out to lead the Revival Campaign anyway. He had aimed to work his way home to Sweden, so perhaps he is home now.

Saw in the last War Cry from Sweden that the Freeds went to India as Adjutants. Just think! Yes, now both the Missus and the Colonel probably have their hands full with K. S.** It is never easy at K. S. Not here anyway. Please say hello to the officers for me. They were all so nice to us last summer.

To think that Colonel Dean is dead. I was in his first circle for K. S. in the USA. He suffered horribly before he died.

Had a letter from South America and they are waiting for Commander Larson and wondering about [him].

What happened that he delayed his trip so long?

“Well”, I am happy that the package got there “all right” and that it was appreciated. It wasn’t very much, but I wanted to show [you] that I hadn’t forgotten how nice all of you were to me when I was home.

“Well”, that will probably be all for now. Next time. Engelstad is now in the Corps. Providence and Pittsburgh Divisions are without a D. O [Divisional Officer]. Probably the Colonel is waiting for something, whatever it is.

Now, at the end, that God may truly bless you all, but especially the Missus herself, is wished sincerely by:

Tina Anderson
Hamilton House
Naugatuck Conn.

Always grateful for letters from the Missus. Captain J. sends greetings.

P. S. Mrs. Beckman and Mrs. Tegnér are going home on April 18th. The Tegnér’s already had a farewell. He is going to travel awhile. The Dahlbergs will probably go to the 2nd and Söderström, who got to go back to the 2nd. Heard that they prayed with the former Adj. Torstenson in Norway. Richter is feeling decadent again now.*** He has a book out here, but can’t sell it because it is too expensive. A love story.

*the writer uses English phrases in quote marks, so I have kept them that way.

**I think this stands for Kår Sverige----i.e. the Swedish Corps. She means your grandparents here even though she is using that indirect form of speech which I told you about. She cannot say “you”, has to say “the Missus and the Colonel”

***the writer does not give enough information for us to know if this is due to alcohol or drug use, or due to some trauma such as a marriage break-up. A more slang translation would be that Richter is “on the skids again now.”

Malmö,
April 24, 1922

Dearest Mamma,

A couple of lines to let you know that I arrived well and happy. The trip was long and not exactly eventful. Was treated in a very friendly way here and have a nice room.

Much has changed at the firm. For the time being I will be working under Mr. Strömwall, who is still here, in the paper section.

Shall now go out and eat my evening meal and then go to see the Lydahls.

[I will] write soon again! Many sincere thanks for Mamma's care and for the wonderful days I spent in Stockholm!

Mamma's own

Sam

P.S. Had a letter from Mrs. Bagnall. She and Charles are coming to Europe this summer. Presumably also to Sweden!

S. W.

NY
April 27, 1922

My dearest little sister,

I have received your most recent letter. I was happy to hear that you all are well. Health is a valuable gift. We are all fine here at home and the little ones are growing. Anna's littlest has begun walking now and he is so sweet and amusing, and little Pitte is so big and talks like a man---he sends a kiss to Aunt Lotten. My Sam says all the time that he never forgets you and he thanks you for your greetings, and I gave him a kiss from you and you should have seen how happy he was. He is down here with us a lot and he still calls me Goga instead of Grandma. Yes, if we only got to be together sometime and not have to be separated; we are only down here a short time [she means on earth] and even so we have to be separated, but such is life.

I had a letter from Alma a couple of days ago. She was just beginning to feel better after having influenza, but felt quite weak, poor thing. I have just written to her also and said hello to her from you. Arvid was up [here] last Saturday and he asked to be remembered to you. He said that he had sent newspapers to Sam, but not the new ones to you, and hopes that he [Sam] got them in the meantime. So I gave him your new address.

Say hello to your fine boys. Has Samuel gone back to Malmö or is he still at home with you awhile yet to rest up. Kaleb wrote to Harry that Hugo and he hope to be accepted at Columbia; I wonder if they have heard from them [Columbia]. Soon it will be difficult for you if they go away from you again.

Now, a thousand loving greetings to all of you from me and all of us. Signe encloses [some also], although most of them are to you. Your affectionate sister Augusta

At the top of the page and upside down, Augusta asks Lotten to please excuse a mistake she has made the writing (which Augusta has crossed out).

Malmö
May 3, 1922

Dearest Mamma,

I haven't had the time before now which would allow me to write and answer Mamma's very welcome letter. As usual, there is too much to do there [at work], and too much to have to do, so I am constantly up to my ears with work.

Otherwise I feel fine and everything is all right here.

I am still living in Miss Assarsson's large room, but will definitely get my old [one] soon, which is nicer since I can decorate it to suit me.

On the First of May* we finished a little early and I went to Smed to watch the student demonstration there. The town was completely overrun with people and as a result of their "strewing" one had to wade up to the calves in confetti. The students' singing was really good, but otherwise I didn't find their way of amusing themselves appealing** ---and I took the first train home. In this town [Malmö] everything was quiet. I had been hoping for something really exciting to enliven the whole thing.

I went up to see the Lydahls the other day and they send greetings. They were extremely friendly. The Hindu girls were here last night, but I didn't get the chance to go and see them.

Has Hugge heard anything from America or Germany yet? I assume he is happy now to have finished his military life.---

Mr. Ouchterlang is on his way home now and I will probably be able to stay here until he arrives.

Sayonara for today. Sincere greetings to all of you!

Mamma's own

Sam

*Sam says the First of May, which in modern Sweden, is the day that the socialists and communists have parades and demonstrate for Solidarity, but he is referring to the student celebrations (see **) which now are held on April 30th each year.

**April 30th is Walpurgis Eve, and in every university town in Scandinavia (Germany, too) the students gather at some prominent place and sing all their student songs in a celebration of Spring. They also drink a lot, all day, and get pretty rowdy; presumably that is what did not appeal to Sam. He would have heard about it his whole life and would have been looking forward to it. Look up in your encyclopedia or books about Sweden to read more about this famous Student Day. We went every year in Uppsala with friends.

May 14th, 1922

Dear K. -

No apologies - although they are quite in order!

Your favor received some time ago was read with great interest. A few things, at least, seem to be happening in your city - which is more than can be said of this one. The only noteworthy event here is that people have given up "Riviexam" - the 2" x 4" Street where the whole city "promenaded" during the winter and have transferred their favors to Scotts-Koyce . (Great news!)

I am, as per usual, working hard and relieve the monotony now and then by a set of tennis in the morning. Bathing has not yet commenced, but if the warmth of the last 2 days keeps up the water will soon be warm enough.

How are your plans coming on. I am very anxious to know what is to happen. I have just dispatched a letter to Mrs. Bagnall describing what a wonderful country this is - hoping that she will forgive me when she comes here - and I explain the reason!

Dodo's letter was interesting and made me "homesick" more than ever. Frieda is getting a bad name isn't she?

You write that Margaret is "leaving" just as you expect to arrive in the States. Where is she going?

Those magazines you advised have not yet arrived! I am hungry for that sort of stuff so please send as much as you can spare!

Have you done anything about that ring?

Write me soon and I shall promise a quicker reply.

Loads of love to you all,

As always

Sam

Malmö
May 15, 1922

Dearest Mamma,

If I could write as often as I think of, and long for, Mamma [you], then Mamma wouldn't have time to do anything else except to read my letters---but as it is here, I have all too little time to write my own letters.

I am fine---as usual---and entertain myself---as usual---with work---it is the only thing I have time for---thus my only pleasure. I have to admit that I don't like living in this town, and, since I can't live at home all the time, I long to get away*---mostly from all the small-mindedness and the stagnation---in these people who, no matter how much I try, I cannot learn to understand or like. Doesn't Mamma feel that way sometimes?

Yesterday I had the nicest day I have had since I came here. One of my work-mates from the office and I biked about 20 km** to a place called "The Beech Woods"---one of the few "forests" to be found in Skåne***. We took a packed lunch with us and spent a couple of hours wandering around in "the beeches". Spring seems to be very late this year. The trees are still not fully leafed out and I am still wearing my winter coat---and still freeze sometimes---the wind is always blowing off the Sound here.****

Isn't it going to be fun to see Mrs. Bagnall? I am longing to hear what is happening out in the world. Here it feels as though one is buried alive. How soon will you travel to Lådna? I still don't know if I will have any vacation. Probably not!---if I know the firm.

Now I have to stop writing this "substantial"! letter.*****

A thousand loving greetings to all of you. Mamma's own

Sam

P.S. I had a letter from Lilian S. today and she asked me to say hello.

*the Swedish phrase he is using means to get away [get out] from Sweden, and since he thinks his mother shares his feelings sometimes, I think he is referring to Swedes in general, and not just those in Malmö.

**12 English miles

***a province in Southern Sweden, used to be part of Denmark hundreds of years ago. Those Beech Woods are famous and truly breathtaking in the autumn----gold everywhere.

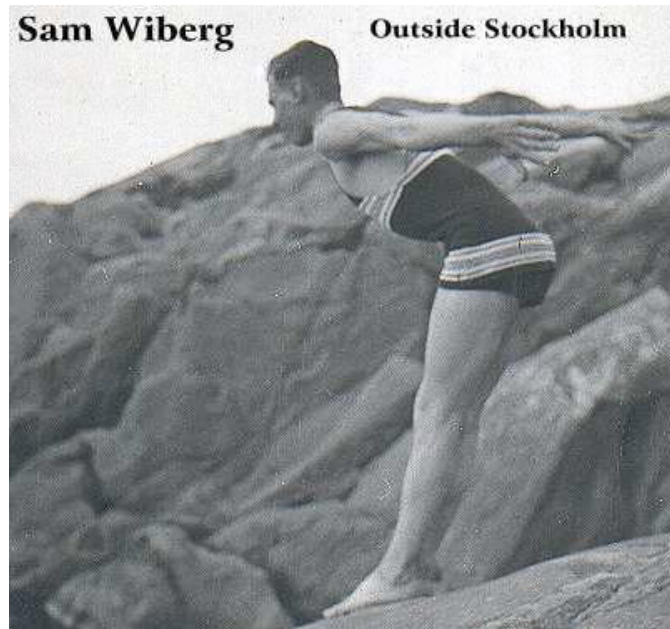
****the Sound between Malmö and Denmark

*****he means weighty or very important contents---is being sarcastic!

Malmö
May 26, 1922

Dear Mamma,

Had intended to write yesterday, but I went to Limhamn in the morning and took my first swim of the year---I mean in the sea---and got so sunburned that I spent the rest of the day feeling enervated, to say the least. However, it is better today, but Mamma should see how I look-----like a Japanese sunset!



It has been really warm the last few days----the much-longed-for summer is finally here. Is it the same in Stockholm?---I assume that you are happy that you can go out to Lådna soon. For my part, I thrive wonderfully in the warmth and can work much better now---which is the main point!

Still don't know if I will get any vacation---but it looks doubtful [literally, "it looks dark out"]. Would be so enormously amusing to get to come up to all of you for a bit---and get "to live". One doesn't live here----one just exists----everyday is just like another.

I still haven't got my old room back, but expect to have it in June now. Miss Assarsson is very friendly---has heroically promised to wash and darn my socks.

I need a pair of shoes. Would Mamma please ask Kalle to look for a pair for me. Everyone says that they are much more expensive here than in Stockholm. Low brown shoes in "brogue" style. He has enough money of mine to cover the cost.

I know that Mamma excuses these letters of mine with very little important contents, knowing that there is really nothing here to write about---other than that I am well and am happy. Greetings to all!

Mamma's own Sam Xxx

Stockholm
den 31st May, 1922

Dear Sam,

You are twenty one to-day, aren't you? How do you feel? I feel this way about it. If I were MacCauley I would write 20 adjectives to the noun and 15 nouns to the verb in describing my hearty congratulations. If I were Will Irwin I should limit myself to half the above, and if I happened to be an ideal American newspaper reporter I would but say, "I sure wish you luck". Happening to be but what I am, I have to limit myself to a sincere and hearty wish of good luck and hoping that you will have a fine day tomorrow and many to follow.

Tomorrow you will internationally be rated by human eyes to be a man, although you in reality have been one rather a long time. You now have the world at your feet, yours for the grabbing. See that you put your soul into it.

Separately another missile is approaching you, probably by the same train, which we hope will bring joy to your newly budded man-heart.

Loads of love from your brother

[not signed - probably from Sams's brother Sven]