

Rendsburg, 21. April 1959

My dear friend!

Thanks at first for your prospect: "The seven wonder of Istanbul" and your letter from 28 th of March. So, it was possible to inform myself about several unknown things of Istanbul. You must know, our newspaper are indigent with articles and informations about the Orient - special of Turkey.

You can read something about Italy, Spain and Austria - the classical countries of German travelling - parties. Indeed our feelings for your nation are very hearty (I suppose after the 2 nd war it is a merit yours honourable Prime-Minister Menderes) but the publicity heard in a few words our mutual desirement.

I was very astonished about your letter in German language. Where did you learned it? It is my dream, to corresponding so in english, like you in german. I havn't time enough to employ myself with a strange language. I have to much hobbies and occupations. And now, from 1 st of April, I take leave for two years from my profession to study at Kiel. (I am ready at April 1961) I hope, after this time, I can improve myself in the english language. But it is not a study at the university, rather at an academy of economics and state-affairs. The conclusion at spring 1961 is a public - examination.

You see - and before this date it will be not possible to visite you, Istanbul and Turkey. This will be our first and last greatest journey. And in the meantime, we shall be sparing; to fill up piece by piece our money box. I can assure you, often our thoughts stayed by you and your native. The joy in advance is the beautiful joy. We are hoping with confidence that our wish will be realised.

I am very happy to get introduced to your family by pictures, you announced. You must wait patiently of some photos from us; you must know, I have a camera for 8 m/m Narrow-gauge Reversal Film. I am only in the position to manufacture a film like a film in the cinema, with my camera. I could manufactured a film for you - but you must have a tool of reproduction to produce the film. And I supposed, you havn't it. So, I will hand over to you after a time some photos. (Firstly I must procure a camera for photos).

To day, I will show you Rendsburg. But first, I must inform you, it is not my native. I am a refugee and my native-town is "Königsberg", a city of 380 000 inhabitants. Beginning the Russian invasion (January 1945) of the province "East-Prussia" and the capital of this province, Königsberg, we left our native, run away westward. -

German forces delivered us and after the destruction of the German nation I reached Rendsburg together with my parents and my brother and sister.

Rendsburg

Rendsburg is a little town, its population is not more than 37 000, but a town at the intersection of two international highways.

The high railway bridge across the Canal greets from afar every stranger no matter whether he approaches Rendsburg by car on the international European Highway No 3 or by rail. The bridge is the town's landmark. Like a delicate tracing its fine filigree stands out against the sky-line. From the distance this slender framework does not convey the magnitude of this steel construction:

it is 2,7 Km long and the actual bridge has an span of 150 m across the canal, 42 m above water level. The tremendous piers of the bridge rise up to a height of 70 m. Rarely is the individual beauty of technical structures demonstrated as here, and rarely do they fit so harmoniously into the landscape.

A piece of the 2,7 Km long steel construction of the high bridge



The actual bridge with a span of 150 m across the canal

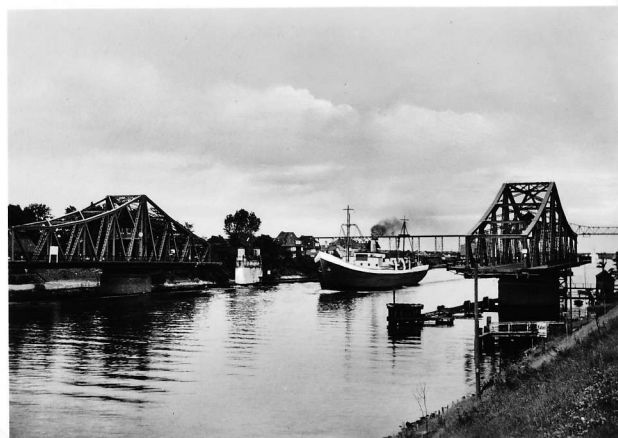


When you, the traveller, arrive by train from the south or east and cross the bridge you look down on the scenery as if from an airplane. The ribbon of the canal glitters up and the town of Rendsburg comes into view. A wide expanse of red roofs and green squares framed by the canal in the south and the winding course of the river Eider in the north.

If you arrive from the north though, sitting perhaps in one of the 10 000 motor vehicles which pass our town daily on the highway linking the Scandinavian north with the rest of Europe, you are carried past small towns with gabled houses.

Everywhere though you notice the beat of public and industrial life. When leaving the town it may happen that you have to wait a few minutes at the road swing bridge. (nearly the high-bridge) You will not be bored. Almost loudless as if moved by the hands of a ghost the two mighty sections of the bridge swing apart and the water way is open.

(You see two photos with the swing bridge, in the background the high-bridge)



More than 200 ships of all sizes, from lighters to ocean liners, pass through the Kiel Canal daily, some days even 250. You can see here the flags of all nations, and your heart will beat higher when from the stern of a proud ocean liner perhaps the flag your nation greets you whilst the steamer passes you slowly and with dignity. You realise: here is the intersection of two highly important European highways.

The Canal is the new shipping route. It exists since 1895, but in its present dimensions which are not inferior to those of the Panama- and Suez Canals, only since the extensions during the years 1907-14.

Its predecessor was the Eider Canal of 1784. It is due to this canal that the town experienced its golden age of industry and trade in the 18 th and 19 th centuries. Before that time the river Eider connected Rendsburg with the sea. From ~~ix~~ the beginning the town is an inland sea harbour.

The next photos you see:

The Provincial Theatre plays, and produces effect, far beyond the borders of the District.

The park nearly the Provincial Theatre.



Enough for to day, my friend. In one of my next letters I will tell you somethings about the town and its industry. Hoping you will be interested.

My kindly regards, the same from my wife, for you and your family,

Yours sincerely

*Ed. J. ...*