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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP AUSTRIA (US)

APO 777, U. S. ARMY

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ILLEGAL BORDER-CROSSING

"We arrived in Budapest around 6 o'clock in the evening and went to the Joint. They put us in the committee rooms, the state of which was beyond description. About 200-300 people were sleeping on the floor in plenty of dirt. We went to the city and looked for lodgings. Then we washed and slept in clean beds. We stayed for three days and on the fourth day we made an agreement with somebody to take us to Vienna. He wanted 100 (currency not indicated) apiece. We procured the money and left the same evening. Next morning we arrived in Sopron and tried to start for Vienna the same day but we were asked to return. In spite of that we were off the second day. On the second day the Austrians apprehended us and confiscated 400 cigarettes. After having passed a night at the police station, they sent us to Vienna by train. However, before the train moved, the Russians chased us out since riding in their zone is not allowed without an appropriate permit. Afterwards our boss called up the Joint in Vienna and was promised a car to fetch us. We had to stay out in the cold night and wait. Near morning a car drove up to fetch us but we were 250 people so that women and children were to be off first. Thus, we had to wait one more day without any food. In the evening 4 cars arrived and took us all away. On our arrival in Vienna we were received by the Joint. We had a good time here; 4 meals daily, oranges, tins, etc... Gave us American clothes."

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