

## Gertrude & Philip Hoffman

April 1961

Europe & Israel

*In April 1961 Gertrude and Philip Hoffman went on the grand tour of Europe and Israel. They went with Leo & Helen Novak and Sylvia & Stanley Koreman. Gertrude left with a travel book in which she kept a pencil written diary of their trip and a list of purchases she made. Folded into the travel book was a touring map of Israel on which she penciled in the names of places where they visited. The following is an exact transcription of their trip - no editing has been done. Attached are scanned photos.*

*Following the end of Gert's diary is a letter written by Philip to his nephew, Louis Arner. The letter was sent from Paris after they had been in Israel.*

*Note: I presume that Gert kept an organized album of their visit and that the photos scanned here were probably "seconds" or duplicates. I'm sure that Leo photographed extensively and would have sent Gert a complete copy of every photo he took.*



4/6/61 - Took off Pittsburgh Capital Airlines 12 noon with Carol. Arrived La Guardia 2:15. Taxi ride to Idlewild [now JFK]. Waited for Leo & Helen and met up with Sylvia & Stanley Koreman who are taking the trip with us. Wonderful send off: Lilie & Sam, Glo & Harry, Glo Lenny Cara Saul Lil Osband, The Gilberts, Lillie Abe Bonnie & Ditty, Ronny Judy Carol Victor and the Koreman children, Jack & Rolaine - had a few drinks and was wished Bon Voyage. Flight PanAm took off at 8:05 instead of 7:30. Am now air born and Daddy is relaxed and both very happy. Served Kosher tray but neglected to make it Pesadick. Waiting for a Passover dinner to be served. The dinner turned out to be Kosher but not for Passover. Arrived at Orly Airport in Paris at 3am Pitt time - 9 am Paris time. Browsed through airport and mailed some cards. Now on the plane en route to Rome. Flight wonderfully smooth. Reboarded plane and landed in Rome in one and half hours later. Weather perfectly beautiful - sunny Italy. Had our first taste of feeling like a foreigner. Had some difficulty in making ourselves understood and then the strange feeling of showing your passport for identification. After clearing customs, a bus ride to the terminal, a taxi to the Excelsior hotel, checked in again passport identification and up to our room at last - room #114 - old but beautiful with private balcony and old grand bathroom. Tub big enough for pipes to heat bath towels that too two Trojan horses to pick up and complete with bidet and all but hard toilet paper and no soap. After washing up, met up with our friends and took a walk through the streets of Rome down Via Conditti and found ourselves at the top of the Piazza Spagna and down the steps. Traffic and driving in Rome is indescribable. The car slips around truly like bugs just crawl in and out and around one another. Remarkable that there aren't more accidents. Back to the hotel by cab for a short rest, cleaned up and dressed for dinner at the hotel After dinner walked around some more just window shopping, weaving in and out of alleys and dodging cars, and so to bed.

4/8/61 - Saturday - Rome. Sunday could have slept on but arranged to go to the Synagogue for Yizkor services. This was a most unusual experience. The edifice is only 57 years old but it looks as grand and ancient as most everything here. We had to walk up about four flights of stairs as women do not sit with their husbands, and then we couldn't find anyone who understood English. It is almost impossible to describe the service. They had a Hebrew prayer book, but most of the women used a little book printed in Italian with no Hebrew letters at all. They went through strange gestures at certain period of the service very much akin to a church service. PS they did not have a memorial service, but it was a most rewarding experience.



Came back to hotel by cab and decided to start sightseeing. We got a Cadillac and off we went to the Coliseum,





the Forum, the baths  
the old Aegean way to Tivoli

and up







and the Villa de Este.

















Back to Rome, dinner. Somewhat tired after a full day.

4/9/61 - Sunday - Awoke to a beautiful sunny morning. The foliage is truly beautiful - much ahead of ours. Had breakfast and after a stroll sat

outside at a café table in front of the hotel. The number of people passing by, one would think they were in front of the Astor on Broadway. It was just unbelievable. Since there is not much to do on Sunday, decided to take a later afternoon train to Florence to spend Monday there. With time to spare took a cab sightseeing and would up at St. Peters. This is an awe inspiring experience but will be going back Sunday night. Arrived in Florence at 9pm, again passport identification but hotel attendents seem to speak more English. Toilet paper in bathroom but no soap. Tomorrow will be shopping day.

4/10/61- Monday - Florence - Awoke early, had breakfast and off to the straw market.





Indescribable. Purchased some linens and hurried back for lunch and then sightseeing to the synagogue where a very sweet girl of about 19 was our guide. She speaks English very well. Actually saw bayonet cuts into the sacred ark made by the Germans - then onto Pitti Palace and gardens. In fact liked Florence even better than Rome. Left at 8:35 on the electric rapids -a magnificent compartment, but dinner in the diner was about the best we have had so far. Arrived back at hotel Rome at 12 midnight and so to bed.

4/11/61 - Tuesday - Got up early to go to Vatican City where we visited the museum and Sestina Chapel where the new Pope is elected. Back for lunch and out to check sailing ticket. Shopped - bought some gloves and then dressed for dinner at the Hosteria del Orst.







4/12/61 - Wednesday - Shopped some silver pins and left for airport to Israel. We are on a British European airplane Comet. It is unbelievable to see every seat taken. The English girl hostesses are precious. They just served afternoon snack consisted of tea sandwiches on rolls with French pastry and tea. There isn't a ripple in the air. We will be stopping in Athens so off to stretch our legs. Back on plane after a look at Athens Airport.





Sent cards to children & Harriet. Also mailed letters. To next stop - Israel!!!! BEA sure fed us well. Besides tea served a cold chicken supper. Just had to fill out form for Israel. Everyone stumped on permanent address abroad - for a moment we forgot, we were the foreigners and abroad meant our own home town. People very congenial and amazing how every seat is taken. Pilot just announced we will be in Tel Aviv in 15 minutes and at Lydda Airport a few minutes later.



Can't explain my emotion of thanksgiving to have this privilege and a long long dream about to come true. Can't help but thinking of my mother and father, may they be a blessed memory, who I know are with us right now. We are about to realize their cherished dream: my first glance of Tel Aviv Israel.

4/13/61 - Checked into Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv.





Modern hotel with room overlooking the Mediterranean. After unpacking  
a tour around city and



a trip to the Chiam Weitzman Research Institute, Laboratories and Archive. Magnificent flower gardens. Air filled with scent of orange blossoms.







4/14/61 - Friday - off to Jerusalem. Road crowded with cars, trucks like any other [?] but interspersed with horse drawn and donkey drawn carts - just a box on an axel but with rubber tires. Passed mountain after mountain of reforestation by JNF. Fantastic sights of grading of mountains to keep water from running off hills instead using brick retaining walls to stop erosion. Mile after mile as far as the eye could see tilled land orange groves, the car filled with orange blossoms perfume and then the climb up the Judean hills to Jerusalem. Visited Hebrew University and saw the remnant of the original Dead Sea scrolls. Lunch at the Eden and to a vantage point to see Mr. Zion - King David's tomb and Mt. Scopus in the distance. Stood at the barbed wire fence dividing Jerusalem in half, actually saw Arab watch guards and the Israeli watch guards. Then onto a tour of old





Jerusalem and synagogues of ancient times. One was sick from Mecca and to hide their identity had to alter one for the Koran and one for the Torah, but all unbelievably clean. Started back to Tel Aviv at sunset and watched the blazing sun like a ball of fire descend beyond the Judean hills. Saw the extreme orthodox going to shut with their sateen coats and fur hats, but as I said sparkling clean. Back to Tel Aviv for Shabos.



4/15/61 - Shabos in Israel. No public transportation, private car or taxi only. Our hotel room faces the Mediterranean and the sun is shining like a mid July day. Looking out from the porch we saw beach chairs set up for sunbathers, and by mid morning the beach was actually crowded with families, some in the water, some playing ball and on the concrete walks as in Atlantic City boardwalk extending for quite a distance people walking, stopping to greet one another or standing at the rail watching the beach bathers.

4/16/61 - Sunday. It bothered me that I had not gotten to see more of Jerusalem and the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. So up early,

contacted the Hadassah office in Tel Aviv and arranged to meet up with someone at the Alice Seligberg School. After rushing Philip and I took a public cab to Jerusalem. Daddy left me at the school and went off on his own. I visited the school. Sunday is just another school day and another work day. Unfortunately there were not many students as the teachers in secondary education have been on strike since the middle of March and no high schools are in session. However, had lunch there, the first good meal I have had so far with a group of men and women from Calif who are touring then escorted by Mrs. Ben Moishe most charming woman onto the new Hadassah Medical Center. While not fully completed walked and walked some more from main entrance, operating rooms, emergency entrance, xray rooms, laboratories to hospital rooms, doctors quarters, kitchens cafeteria storage rooms - synagogue, wall of healing, water purification systems then onto Kiryat Yovel clinic. Saw doctors quarters, clinic, auditorium. Met Daddy at 4pm, tired but very happy and excited about what I had seen.

4/17/61 - Monday - A village Ashkelon and Beer Sheba. Left the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv. Our first stop in Yavne then onto Ashdod at Rayon Plant then to Nitzanim to visit a Youth Aliyah village - Long Island region where I spoke to some of the children - all vibrantly alert and alive and very happy. Spoke some English. Then onto Ashkelon where archeologists have









uncovered Byzantine Pillars which were covered over by sand from the Mediterranean Sea, then into Ashkelon to find a real shopping center, onto the Gaza fortification where the Israeli soldiers were most friendly, even permitted us to use their binoculars to see the Egyptians patrolling their board with UN troops between them.



Onto Kfar Silver ZOA of America project with agricultural school and onto Beer Sheba. In the heart of the Negev, Bedouin farmers all around. Stopped at a youth center complete with swimming pool and all athletic facilities. The Negev constitutes 60% of Israel's land and only 12% of the population. Rich in phosphorous and chemicals. The miracle throughout is the fertilization of arid land and the beautiful vegetation and plants. Stopped at a kibbutz on way back to Tel Aviv. Negev is bread basket of Israel.

Tree planting on Gaza strip







4/18/61 - Checked out of the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv en route to Haifa and the Dolphin House. Stopped at Nehurin, a Hadassah youth village and visited an Anna Frank Haven. Again the cheerfulness and enthusiasm of the children was most inspiring. Then on to Caesarea to see archeological finding of a complete Roman town complete with shops and writings and statues from the times without heads on them.



Then onto Haifa and to an observation point at the top of Mt. Carmel.





The view breathtaking overlooking the city and onto the Haifa Harbor.

Onto Acre, predominantly an Arab village,



driving through the remains of the original Mediterranean Harbor and now over 6000 new immigrants have been settled - Histmal ships then

onto the Dolphin House, a most lovely resort - one's mind can't fathom unless one see the flower gardens, trees and vegetation in this area.





4/19/61 - Back to Haifa. Did some shopping and then Ba Hai Gardens. There are no words to describe its beauty. At one focal point there are eight sets of steps going down through a street in Haifa straight to the Mediterranean Sea. The bronze and gold statuary is beyond description.





Must obtain the eulogy, and onto the Galilee Area known for ages as a swamp land where rain from the mountains stagnated in the valley with no way to be drained. Rode along passing rich fields of grapes where Carmel grapes grow for miles together with fields of vegetation. Through drainage and development ground has been made so fertile to yield 4 to 6 and in places even eight crops a year. Every inch of the way is full of biblical significance. The play of Caesarea and Deborah. The story of



Elijah. To see land reclaimed by Jews and Jews working in the fields as told in the bible. One sees remnants of *mabarots* [temporary tent housing for new immigrants] but replaced with little houses and even cooperative apartment houses. Onto Nazareth, the supposed conception town of Christ, and entire Arab village. - new church. Being built over the supposed home of Joseph and Mary and walks of what was Joseph's carpenter shop. Orientation center, Ramat Hadassah Galilee. Town a decided contrast in appearance than any other Jewish village. Itin onto Lake Tiberias, 600 feet below sea level. Temperature 98 degrees F, now a resort town comparable to Hot Springs for its sulphur springs and bath to heal rheumatic pains. Had lunch at Galie Kinereth Hotel overlooking lake. One could see snow capped mountains in Lebanon - the shore line of Syria. Lake Tiberias - the Jordan flows into this lake, and flows out to the Jordan. At present a tremendous water system is being installed 96" inside to bring water into the Negev for development and settlement of new immigrants. Returned through the valley of Jezreal with mountains on either side and as far as the eye could see fertile fields. Fields of magnificent tulips, dates along Lake Tiberias, oranges and grapes. Understand that Israel is exporting tulip bulbs to Holland and the orange crop is a large export product. Back to the Dolphin House for dinner. Tonight Israel celebrates its 13th Bar Mitzvah anniversary of the war of liberation in 1948 and it is a declared holiday.



Every city town village and hamlet are celebrating with memorial services for their heroes followed by celebrations of joy to be culminated by a large parade, this year in Jerusalem. After dinner we went into a nearby village Nahariya and found all the townspeople everyone of the 30,000

residing there on the main street, men, women boys girls children dance in the streets with orchestras. Everyone joyfully happy - no boisterous and to think every person is Jewish. Boys and girls with ash blond hair, red hair, fair skins, deeper tones and even real dark skins all integrated and living together, all Jews. A lovely shopping area. Parked the car and smelled the far and its cows. Back to the Dolphin, tired but contented.

4/20/61 - On the go again to the upper Galilee - Sasa American Kibbutz maintains a border patrol with Lebanon yet regular farmers. The most fantastic winding roads through the mountains.



At one point touched the Israel Lebanon border.



In fact Leo took a picture of himself there.

Traveled  
along  
Western  
Galilee  
through  
Druze  
village.  
About  
85,000  
Arabs in  
Israel.



No Moslem Arabs permitted in Israeli army. They know no split loyalty and are intolerant to any other faith. Druze and Circassian Arabs in Israeli army. All along could see the snow capped mountains of Lebanon. On to Kfar Bar Am. Was an Arab village over a Jewish town with ancient synagogue dating back to 100 AD and now been recreated by archaeologists - could already see 3 arched entrances - center for Levites and others for Kol Israel. Onto Naftali where there was a British garrison and then held by Arabs. Despite heavy fighting in the war of liberation Israeli army unable to penetrate sentential, one young man with dynamite and grenades committed suicide by throwing himself against the building and blasted a big hole in building and thus permitted Israeli soldiers to

enter and take the garrison. Passed another British garrison manned by General Wingate where he trained 80 Israeli soldiers against 5000 Lebanese. After the battle only eleven survived successful holding the territory. By this time the temperature must have been in the 90s. From Fort Naftali one could look across to the Syrian border at the bottom and slopes of mountains were border kibbutzim including Kfar Szold. And so down the mountain to the Hula Valley.





Took a picture in front of Nahlaot on the Hula. Project Hadassah VIII  
USA Pittsburgh tri-state Zionist regions USA. Passed a nutria breeding  
project in Hula region.



Lunch at Ayelet Hashachar, a kibbutz and hotel pension.





The cleanliness and calmness of the people is most gratifying. And the flowers, gardens way beyond any horticulturists dream. Fig trees, olive trees, rose gardens, geranium bushes like giant trees - hibiscus bushes. Tulips like bushes. And onto Safad - visited ancient city with old synagogues and artist colony. Today being Independence day everyone was celebrating the holiday with picnics. Traveling back to Dolphin one

could see Lake Tiberias 960 feet below sea level and the Mediterranean Sea at the same time. We leave tomorrow for Switzerland, but I know I must come back to this exciting little country.

4/221/-61 - Awoke at 5am to finish packing and leave Dolphin House for Lydda Airport in Tel Aviv, a 3 hour ride. After checking customs boarded Olympia Airways Comet flight for Zurich with a change of plane in Athens.



The plane took off like an around in the sky, straight up, smooth as silk. Served delicious snack of open faced sandwiches, pound cake and coffee. The best coffee we've had since leaving the USA. After browsing through Athens airport boarded flight for Zurich. Just finished a delicious steak lunch. It's gratifying to see Philip very relaxed and eating well. The sun is shining, and everyone is relaxed. Wrote to Marlene Ochs hoping we might get to see or talk with her.

Arrive Zurich 3:30 and took taxi to Hotel Eden Aux Lac. Beautiful drive. People all over. Hotel hold but spotlessly clean with truly fine linens. Unpacked and took walk along Lake Zurich to main Street. It is quite cool compared to Israeli warmth. Shops were just about ready to close. Spoke to the children first time since leaving the USA. Had dinner at hotel, far from good and the service very long. Went out for a stroll but rather tired and cold, went to bed early.











4/22/61 - Saturday - After breakfast was finished drove to Lucerne. It is raining and cold unlike Israel. Got to Lucerne



a little after eleven and went to shops as stores close for lunch between 12-2. Purchased lapel watches for Marilyn and Carol and bracelet watch for myself. Had lunch at a quaint restaurant. Everything is done leisurely, particularly meals. It is hard to get accustomed to continental customs of two big meals a day - lunch & dinner. After lunch walked through winding streets and across the famous wooden bridge. Stopped at Bauns for sunglasses for Marilyn & Joe by this time Daddy was quite annoyed for the amount of time it took and back to Buchereril to pick up my purchases. No time to look for linens. Drove back through Zug - could see some snow still on the mountains. Lucerne comparatively quite as the season doesn't officially start until May 1st. The countryside is beautiful in spite of the rain. Back to Zurich for dinner and then to a Swiss café with our guide for evening. People are the same the world over. Enjoy watching the different couples dancing. Show was fair, and so to bed.

4/23/61 - Sunday. Awoke to another gloomy looking day. After breakfast wanted to go for a walk but quite cold so decided against it. Went up to pack and picked up by 2pm by guide who took us over to meet his wife and little daughter of seven, Anita. A very smart little girl. In her room she had her original cradle now being used for her dolls. Took me back when our girls had cradles filled with dolls. They drove us to the airport. People & more people sightseeing and traveling. Boarded Air France for Paris. Took off at 3:05 and landed at 4 o'clock - took longer to drive to the Lotti Hotel than the flight.





It rained all the way in - 6:30 pm, Paris it has cleared up and dressed for dinner. Had dinner at the hotel and out for a walk to see Paris at night. First stop Place de la Concorde, past Lalique glass display and Maxim along Rue de Capacine and back through Rue de la Paiz, Place Vendome and so to bed.

4/24/61 - Monday - Paris - After breakfast out for a stroll through Place de la Concorde past the US Embassy and the length of the Champs de Elysee to the Arc of Triumph down Rue Friendland and onto Rue de Franklin Roosevelt. Window shopped amongst magnificent shops. City is a little tense due to expected disturbance from Algiers Police and militia fully alerted with firearms and full regalia. Luncheon at a sidewalk café on Champs de Elysee, back to Museum Louvre and rested at the entrance to Toulurie Gardens - walking back through the gardens it was amazing to see so many children as the district seems to be so commercial.









R

ested and dressed for dinner. Went to the Boris de Bologne where there was an international revue. Three French comedians. One realized how handicapped one is for the lack of knowing the language. It seems more evident in Paris than in any of the other cities we have visited. Magician was excellent.

4/25/61 - Tuesday - Paris. Breakfast and off by foot through Place de la Opera in and our of streets. Came upon a magnificent synagogue. After going in learned it was built by Baron Rothschild. Wandered in and out of side streets. Stopped for lunch and back to hotel to meet up with car and guide for a tour of Paris and surroundings. Stopped at Napoleon's monument, went into









Notre Dame - beautiful stained glass windows - watched the artists. Couldn't help comparing it with Safad in Israel. A little country like Israel too has its artists colony. Back through Pigalle and the left bank of Paris. Also drove through Boris de Bologne Park and the Luxemburg gardens. Back to dress for dinner & learned there was a call from the children but would not be put through again until midnight. Went to little restaurant for dinner by name of Philip and returned to hotel to wait for call. Wonderful taking to the children and to know all is well at home.

4/26/61 - Wednesday - Paris. Awoke to a cloudy, rainy morning, very cool. Walked to the Louvre and waited for the doors to open. Spent 2 1/2 hours, saw some magnificent painting, one of which seems to have left an indelible impression for the realism of color, "L'Amour et Psychere". Back to hotel in the rain, had lunch in room and Helen and I did some shopping. Went to I??? a beaded bag manufacturer and bought a beautiful steel beaded bag. Trudged around for close to an hour trying to find place. Amazing how hard it is to communicate with people in the street. From there to Freddy's where I had made a few more purchases. Tried to get cab but couldn't so had to walk in the rain. It was rewarding because I saw a beautiful rainbow. Just before leaving from the Lido got a call from

Lil Reifer who sounded very good. Was good to hear from someone back home. Dinner and the evening at the Lido proved most enjoyable, the revue was excellent, and the costuming and lavishness of production truly Parisian. Hotel at 1am, real tired but happy.

4/27/61 - Thursday - Paris. Awoke to find the sun shining. Had breakfast and headed for Michel on the Rue de la Pax to pick up a few gifts. Returned to hotel and took to foot through the Touleries and across the Seine to the Left Bank. Walked along path lined with chestnut trees to Bridge Alexander III. The statuary and bronze and gold leaf is tremendous, back through Champs Elysee Park towards hotel. Had lunch in area and then took bus trip to Versailles. Somewhat disappointed - no flowers in beds just greens outline. Lagoons and fountains beautiful. Very cool and in spite of the sun the interior is in the process of being restored or renovated. Neck is strained from looking at ceilings and mind cannot comprehend the monetary involvement in these palaces. Bather rather late so had a light bite and off to the Folies Bergere. True it may be for tourists but I still recommend it as a must. The entrance is amazing with window display, bars, cold drinks, orangeade, lemonade and cola cola. Ham and cheese on French rolls, ? and ginger bread, stately staircase. The chandelier keeps it from looking garish. The theater itself dazzles you with the amount of electric lights. The show itself is too stupendous to describe - the lavishness of production costuming lighting and fast movements one just has to ? from elaborate settings to indescribable acts. Audience participation. I could fill pages if I were to go into any further detail. Back to hotel to pack as we leave for Cannes in the morning. Out last stay before embarking on the Leonardo de Vinci.

4/28/61 - Friday - left for Paris airport, boarded Air France for Nice - took cab to Cannes. Weather delightful. For once felt a little closed to the USA. The place is a modified more subdued Miami Beach. The Mediterranean is truly blue and beautiful. After checking into the Carlton Hotel set out to see part of the town - walked along the sea to boat wharf. Leo had a heyday admiring the magnificent Yachts - ships. I should say as many seaworthy boats. Back through one of the business streets. Seems French perfume is the big item. Back to the hotel - here a suite of beautiful sitting rooms with 2 bedrooms all overlooking the sea. Leo and Helen are occupying it with us. Leo very much wanted to go to Monaco but it is a 40 mile drive each way so we decided not to. Had dinner in the Carlton dining rooms, a most charming and warm place with performers accompany music, a piano and 2 violins. Relaxed and enjoyed dinner very much. Out for a stroll again - have still to see a gambling casino so off a

hunting we went. Finally found it - Helen very averse to going in but knowing how much Leo wanted it. I joined him, Philip and Helen staying in the lobby. Very disappointed at what we found. As I said before, found France most difficult because of language barrier. Stayed only a short while as we realized this was not for us - several roulette wheels, one blackjack and some other card game, no slot machines. And so back to hotel and to bed.

4/29/61 - Saturday. Awoke to a beautiful day in Canne. Breakfast in our suite and off to check in at the Italian line for sailing in the afternoon. Out shopping. Bought perfumes but still wanted some little novelties. Found a gift shop and bought an assortment of Limoge miniatures. By this time shops were closing for their midday break which is generally between 12-2 or thereabouts all through the continent. Returned to hotel in time for packing last minute things and off to clearing customs and embarking on the Leonardo di Vinci for home. After much waiting around at the maritime building boarded a tender which took us out to the ship which was anchored out in the harbor. Was shown to our stateroom which is very comfortable and quite adequate. A real new experience for me to be embarking on a sailing across the ocean. Unpacked and off to dinner - good food but far too much to eat. Retired to the main salon but too tired to stay awake and so to bed.

4/30/61 - Sunday. Breakfast and watched landing at Naples at which time we disembarked and took private car to Pompei. En route could see Mt. Vesuvius in distance but vision was marred by mist and rain. Arriving at Pompei could not get around too well because of heavy downpour. En route back to Naples saw Sorrento and Capri in distance. Drove around Naples and back to ship. Sailed at 4pm. Next stop Gibraltar. Getting back on ship didn't feel so strange. A little rocky and rolly but not too bad yet. After dinner played bingo but no luck and so to bed.

5/1/61 - Monday - A beautiful day. Breakfast and off to the lido deck where they were filling the swimming pool. Rented deck chairs and daddy relaxed for a while. Beginning to get a little more acclimated to ship life. After lunch had a life saving drill. Quite awesome in spite of the gayety. Just hope we never have to use it. Philip seems quite skeptical about water but he sure is being a good sport. After the alert went to the Central Lounge for afternoon tea and a delightful musical interlude. Tonight is the captain's dinner preceded by a cocktail party. Each couple was presented and introduced personally. Pictures taken and gala dinner served. After



dinner went to Anas room for another delightful musical concert followed by a dance contents which proved rather different - names of 7 Italian cities in posted in four different corners, then the music stopped, an envelope was opened and those couples standing in the town called were eliminated and so it continued until one couple was left and chosen the winner.

5/2/61 - Tuesday - The weather has continued beautiful however very windy on outdoor deck. They filled the pool yesterday, and Leo took a dip which he said was ice cold. Philip relaxed in a deck chair for a few hours. We passed the Rock of Gibraltar, reminded everyone of the Prudential Life Insurance slogan and insignia. Anchored in the bay to see a most unusual sight of vendors in ordinary row boards throw lines on the decks and start barking to sell their merchandise. Real Honky Tonky scarves, lighters and small items a number of which were made in Japan. Remained at the straits of Gibraltar until tenders brought passengers out to board ship. Had we realized we could have gone on to Madrid for a few days and boarded from Gibraltar. Boat sailed at 11am and everyone back to ship. Routine. Tried to play some shuffleboard but much too windy. Volleyed a little ping pong with Leo and went to see a very pleasant movie. It was most enjoyable. Dressed for dinner, off to evening concert followed by horse racing and so to bed.

5/3/61 - Wednesday - We are leaving the Mediterranean behind and headed for the deep wide Atlantic Ocean. One can really feel the difference as the ship is heaving and rocking but it means getting closer to the children and home. The weather continues sunny but very windy outdoors. Settling down to routine of ship just lulling around between meals, short concerts and some evening betting on races or bingo - move clock back one hour each night to coincide with NY time.

5/4/61 - Thursday. Passed the Azores and felt we were getting closer to home. Also received custom forms to be filled out. We are about half way and hope the other have won't be any worse. Met up with some Pittsburghers - Mr & Mrs Merle Spandow from the Dithridge and reminisced over the beauty and wonders of Israel, also spoke about the new Hadassah Medical Center. Sat out for a while and saw a movie in the late afternoon. Dressed for dinner and retired to hear the evening concert. Played an little gin with Leo and Helen and so to bed.

5/5/61 - Friday. Awoke to a very dismal day. Rough seas, rain and quite not nice. Resigned to usual ship routine of walking indoors. Got purchases assorted for customs and just waiting to see the children.

5/6/61 - Saturday. Still gloomy looking. Hope it clears up to be able to get out a bit. Turned into a real mean afternoon. By dinner time the ship was pitching and tossing violently. This being a farewell dinner it was supposed to be quite gala, but many folks were indisposed because of sea conditions. Fortunately Philip and I turned out to be good sea going travelers, some dancing and retired at midnight. Tomorrow is a big day.

5/7/61 - Sunday. Awoke about 4am and couldn't fall asleep again - no doubt the anticipating of packing, customs clearance and above all getting home to the children creates the tension. Have just finished my breakfast in the cabin and as I think back about our trip one thought seems to prevail instead of the Ugly American I feel more like the Stupid American tours the continent. Yes, there might have been better planning but on a whole it was very wonderful and exciting. Naturally my high light was Israel and truly feel I want to go back. There. As for the continent having kept a closed mind to antiquity I am no judge. Our short stays offered us the chance to see some little smattering of certain parts. If I were to go again I would confine myself to fewer sights and longer stays. That is up to the almighty.

Letter written by Philip to his nephew, Louis Avner. The letter was sent from Paris, after they had been in Israel.

TELEPHONE:  
RICHELIEU 93-84

# HOTEL LOTTI

7 Rue de Castiglione

PARIS  
FRANCE

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:  
OTELOTTI, PARIS

Sunday, April 23, 1961

Dear Louis:

After having visited Rome, Florence, Israel, Zurich & Lucerne we arrived in Paris about 2 hours ago. All are are dirty, is packing & unpacking & moving from place to place & in between trying to see the high points of the various places we visit.

It's been 17 days & I haven't walked up too much - even stairs yet.

After 5 days in Paris, we go to Cannes for a day & then to Nice from where we will embark for New York.

The boat trip is the last thing I care for, but since we are travelling with two other couples, there's nothing I can do but go along.

I hope that you & Helen & the children are enjoying good health & that everything is well with you.

Nothing will be asked to ask about business & it's troubles. I am trying to forget about it, although it's not easy.

I hope that they confirmed I have in the boat. I may be able to take a or at least come to a decision about my own position.

There's only one thing I am glad that I was able to see, & that is Israel. Even though I am not an ardent Zionist & not given to enthusiasm, I had to marvel to the accomplishment of a handful of people who had very little left in life.

While I haven't been able to see the homeland & the close observation of the people, but I obtained the results of a short 13 years. They have transformed a desert into a land of wonder. They have plenty to do there & they need a lot of more people to do it with them, but given 15 years of peaceful

Two  
HOTEL LOTTI

TELEPHONE:  
RICHELIEU 93-84

7 Rue de Castiglione  
PARIS  
FRANCE

ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE:  
OTELOTTI, PARIS

Celestine, I am sure will be a lot to be admired.

Incidentally, in reading the English press of Israel & his story on the Eichman trial, I noticed a name of a correspondent by the name of Aonev. It may be of the family, since it's rather a rare name.

Give my regards to Irving, Laurie & Hannah if you see Rev.

With best wishes for good health & the best to everybody to you & your family. Love this

P.S.  
Regards to Cecil & Devin & all the others.



**HOTEL LOTTI**

*7 Rue de Castiglione*

PARIS

FRANCE

Sunday, April 23, 1961.

Dear Louis,

After having visited Rome, Florence, Israel, Zurich & Lucerne, we arrived in Paris about 2 hours ago. All we are doing is packing and unpacking and moving from place to place & in between trying to see the high points of the various places we visit.

It's been 17 days & I haven't worked up too much enthusiasm yet.

After 5 days in Paris, we go to Cannes for a day and then to Nice from where we will embark for New York.

The boat trip is the last thing I care for, but since we are traveling with two other couples there is nothing I can do but go along.

I hope that you & Helen Louise & the children are enjoying good health & that everything is well with you.

Nothing will be gained to ask about business and its troubles. I am trying to forget about it, although it's not easy.

I hope that being confined 8 days on the boat I may be able to solve or at least come to a decision about my own position.

There's only one thing I am glad that I was able to see, & that is Israel. Even though I am not an ardent Zionist and not given to enthusiasm, I had to marvel at the accomplishments of a handful of people who had very little left in life. While I haven't been able to see the homelife and the close observation of the

people, but I observed the results of a short 13 years. They have transformed a desert into a land of wonder. They have plenty to do there & they need a lot more people to do it with them, but given 25 years of peaceful coexistence, Israel will be a lot to be admired.

Incidentally, in reading the English press of Israel and it's ? on the Eichman trial, I noticed a name of a correspondent by the name of Avner. It may be the family since it's a rather rare name.

Give my regards to Irving, Bernie & Hannah if you see her.

With best wishes for good health & the best of everything to you & your family,

Uncle Philip

P.S. Regards to Cecil & Levin & all the others.