

July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1941

Dear Mr. Groom, Pardon me for taking the liberty of writing to you but I just received your address through Mr. W. Peet and Mr. J. Alexander Birmingham, forwarded to me by my mother. They encouraged me to write to you and I assume you will hear from them yourself shortly. - Nevertheless I would like to introduce myself before I continue writing. My name is Gunter Weiss and I am a German refugee from Nazi oppression and after having spent several weeks in a concentration-camp, I had the opportunity of finding refuge in Britain. But last year in those difficult days at the collapse of France a general rounding up of so called "enemy aliens" started although I had previously passed a tribunal and was found loyal etc. Permitt to this sweeping order I was sent to this country without having had the chance to appeal for release or a new tribunal. In the meanwhile Mr. Morrison told the House of Commons that we were deported to Australia by mistake and therefore Major Lyster the Liaison officer of the Home Office has been sent here in order to investigate our cases, facilitate immigration to the U.S.A. for those who have got visas. Then he suggested that we should join the British Pioneers, but as a lot of internees including myself would like to remain in Australia, and to that time when we suggested this to him, showed he only little interest to those questions and explained to us that this would be contrary to the policy of the Australian Government to release any internees from Britain here. I forgot to mention that the Pioneers have to go back or to serve in the Empire etc. This was all three months ago and since up to date no change took place. - I was able to read the Sydney Morning Herald from June 21<sup>st</sup> in which a statement made by Mr. Spender the Minister for the Army was printed. He said that some of us might be freed here, but I am very sceptic and have lost the hope of a one year interment. Several of us have already gone back to England and I am not quite sure more what I shall do. If not a major change takes place in the near future I suppose I shall return to Britain too. We are in touch with some Committees in Melbourne at Sydney and suppose they will keep us informed about all new events. I do not think you could help me at the present, but if I should get released in Australia after all I hope then you will allow me to write to you again. - Well, I think I have to close now and hope I did not bore you too much. I am at the present in Orange, but are leaving this place shortly for another camp. - For the time being now I remain to you with best regards.

Yours sincerely  
Gunter Weiss.

P.S. Please excuse my bad English

Miss

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 Orange, Unit 14, Eastern Command,  
 90 The Postnet Centre, 45 Rosebery Street Sydney.

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