

RW1605/5

FROM: Paul L. FENT, N854932,  
7 Camp, Eastern Command,  
c/o District Censor,  
45 Reservoir St.,  
Sydney

TO: Miss Ruth H. SWANN,  
Elizabeth Farm House,  
GRANVILLE,  
N. S. W.

Dear Miss Swann, thank you very much for your kind letter. I feel I must apologize for my wife springing a letter upon you, and asking you to go out of your way for a perfect stranger, and an intermed one to boot. I am sure, however, you will forgive this intrusion if you realize what her feelings must have been when, without a warning, without even a farewell, her husband was suddenly taken away and deported to the antipodes. I may add that, for some five months, she had no news from me at all. Moreover, as you rightly pointed out: she does not know anything about Australia - I do not think any of us "Continental" people really do - and we here are not allowed to mention the actual place of this camp in our letters, only the address given above. I do not know Dr Ullmann nor Mr John either. They probably are in Camp 8. Being a Catholic I do not attend the Meetings of Worship. The Friends and the Jewish Welfare Society have kindly provided us with quite a lot of books. They mean a great help to us. I do not attend the Camp School properly speaking, but I do lecture occasionally on various subjects (I have been the London correspondent of a leading Belgian paper until it was ~~quite~~ swept out of existence by the Nazi invasion) and I try to study and to do some work of my own. This is less a question of finding relief from the monotony of camp life, but of overcoming the danger of developing a prison psychosis and of the depression resulting from our somewhat odd position. Thank you ever so much for inquiring about my needs. I do not think there really is anything I could ask you for.

Thanking you again, yours sincerely,  
Paul L. Fent