

Monday October 18th, - 1943

Killing of the innocent. Wednesday December 1st - 1943

Today we received the sad message that Oslo University is closed and that all students (except the Nazis) had been arrested and that our own Teddy is among them. The rumour has it that they are to be sent to Germany at once.

The reason for this draconic step is said to be the running debate between the students and the professors on the one hand and Department of Education on the other. The Department wants to push through a regulation that Nazi students can study at the university without first matriculating from High School. The arrested students have been brought down to Stavern but we are not allowed to see them. However, we were allowed to send them a rucksack with clothes, soap, shaving things and one sleeping bag and this we have done. All the students we know have been arrested.

13th December - 1943

We got the following letter from a friend in Oslo:

"We do not know how we can express our sympathy to you and your wife about the arrest of Teddy. We are very sad over this fate of our friend Teddy who was nearly as one of our own sons. We have speculated about how one could take some action to set him free. Now we have heard that students who have been working in addition to their studies may be released and this is the reason we write. If his father wrote that Teddy has been working as a fisherman in his boat and this was signed by the local police and sent to the Dean of the university, Adolf Noel, it might do some good. But speed is of the essence and we do hope that we shall survive with our sons in tact. It is lucky that is in such good health and this is extremely important."

I got a signature from the police and sent it to the Dean but heard no more.

I got a letter off to Teddy in Stavern and told him what I had done. He replied and said that he appreciated my efforts but he would rather stay with his friends that he had in the prison camp. He wrote of the high morale among the boys. Unfortunately, I cannot now find the letter.

Christmas 1943 was therefore spent at Skautangen with us four instead of five and of course Teddy's fate was uppermost in our minds. From our house we could see across the sea to Stavern and it was a peculiar feeling knowing that our second son sat in a prison camp surrounded by German soldiers while we sat here in peace and quiet at home. Before the students were shipped off to Germany we got the following letter from Teddy:

Sunday January 1st - 1943

Dear Father and Mother:

Well today we are off to Germany and although we expected this nevertheless it came suddenly. This therefore cannot be a cheerful letter, especially as you probably expected me to come home. Even if it is going to be a long time until we see each other again we must remain cheerful. Do not send anything to me until you hear from Germany. Lots of luck and keep cheerful. Love, Teddy."

Teddy's first letter written in German reached us on March 18th and was dated February 21st. The address was: Schliesfach 219, Weimar, Thuringen. What this Schleisfach meant we did not know and yet it still pleased us. In a speech Quisling had said that the students would not be sent to concentration camps but to a quiet and free country place where the students would be taught to become good Germans.

We therefore thought that it might be some kind of educational institution.

Of course it turned out that the boys were sent straight to Buchenwald and that the other was just a code word. One wonders how many times the Norwegian people had been fooled in a similar manner.