

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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CRANDELL EPPS and MRS. L. ADRIENNE VINCIGUERRA

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1 AV I received a letter from Mr. Sleeper; I gave it
2 a lot of thought and I answered and the reason--I was home;
3 I didn't answer the phone because the questions he asked me
4 in the -- in his letter, I just wanted to have a little more
5 time to think about them. I really didn't feel I had much
6 to add at this point. I wanted you to read my letter first.

7 CE Oh yes. I haven't received that; I'm sure it'll
8 be coming through to us soon.

9 AV Yes. I mailed it Sunday night so you probably
10 should get it today or tomorrow. And I returned the
11 manuscript that and I made some corrections on it.

12 CE Fine.

13 AV At this point, I do have a question, though. On
14 the ^{TAPE} ~~page~~ did I put down the doctor in WIESBADEN, that wasn't
15 Vienna that was WIESBADEN, was a Roman Catholic?

16 CE Yes; you did but we felt that perhaps it would be
17 better not to include that. We don't want to antagonize
18 the -- our friends and so we left that little item out, but
19 it is nice to know and we're glad to have that information.

20 AV Are there any questions at this point you have?

21 CE Well, of course I'd like to read your letter
22 which hasn't -- we don't have yet but I wonder--we don't
23 want you to feel about these questions -- I helped
24 Mr. Sleeper in preparing the letter -- and we ~~wouldn't~~ ^{wouldn't} want
25 you to feel that -- if you don't have anything to add, that's
26 alright -- We just wondered in general if there might be

1 anything along those lines at any point that you would
2 want to add -- that hadn't come through on the tape.

3 AV Well he asked me for the spiritual aspect. Well
4 you see I had, my understanding was very small. There was--
5 the first synonym of God that meant anything to me was
6 Mind.

7 CE Was Mind.

8 AV And I would just turn to Mind and listen and
9 whatever came to me, I would just implicitly follow without
10 any doubt or without anything. I didn't have any large
11 vision of anything. Whatever--the little that came to me--
12 you know Mrs. Eddy says "a grain of Truth"---

13 CE Yes

14 AV and I just thought -- I had complete confidence
15 that Mind was able to tell me what to do and to direct me--
16 correct me, but it wasn't any spiritual understanding or
17 anything. It was more childlike trust.

18 CE Yes, and did you feel you glimpsed something of -
19 when on page 165C when you were studying together in the
20 room with the other women and you received this glimpse of
21 what man is, was that -- would that be an accurate way to
22 state it? As what man --

23 AV I saw that man, being the nature of God, is not
24 limited. I mean if he is like God you can't confine him
25 into any one place and not prison him behind a barbed wire.

26 CE Yes. That's certainly true -- that's a very

1 happy thought and that--is that--so that is accurate in
2 ~~this~~ ^{that} statement, is it?

3 AV Oh, yes and you see I didn't have -- and that
4 was enough for me and I just said well, if that's it,
5 what am I doing in here and I just walked out. It wasn't
6 so much that my understanding was so clear; it was just
7 that the little bit I glimpsed, I immediately put into
8 practice.

9 CE Yes, Well it's, certainly wonderful --

10 AV Excuse me, ^{on the tape,} ~~under page~~ -- did I put down when I
11 was up there in _____, that we ran out of
12 medication and that I remembered that Mrs. Eddy had--

13 CE Yes, you did. We--

14 AV But you didn't want to use that---

15 CE We didn't include that little part because it
16 wasn't, it wasn't, it didn't seem quite appropriate from
17 the medical point of view. We didn't want to embarrass
18 the doctors there, but it certainly was interesting to hear
19 about and we're grateful to hear about that.

20 AV Well to me it meant a lot because it just showed
21 that the whole thing-- that it worked, you know. Did I put
22 down on the tape -- ^{you all} I have never heard the tape -- in
23 Vienna that they tried to catch up with me, "they" meaning
24 the Nazis, and that I just -- wherever I went I knew that
25 I was under God's law and not under their law, that I was
26 completely untouched by any of their regulations. Did I

1 put that down?

2 CE He remembers that specifically-- we left out --
3 you did mention that you had written a letter telling
4 them that you had passed on and we didn't think that was
5 appropriate to include that; we left that out ^{but} the other
6 is good and perhaps if you feel it should be in there at
7 some point, we'd be glad to have you add it. Is the is
8 VARNUMUNDE the correct spelling of that?

9 AV No. Its W A R N E M Ü N D E, Warnemünde.

10 -----Repetitions of spelling of the word-----

11 CE That was a lovely time up there, wasn't it,
12 ~~when~~ ^{while} you were walking on the beach. That gave us a lovely
13 feeling to hear about that, as you walked down the beach
14 with your books.

15 AV Also, these Scientists there in _____ that time
(NOT CLEAR) 16 who, after the war ~~was over~~ ^{had}, told me they had gotten free.

17 CE Yes that was a nice thing too. Time, the space
18 factor required us to eliminate some things and that was
19 one but we felt that...

(NOT CLEAR) 20 AV I don't know what time on the tape it was--
21 say its [/] about two years ago now, isn't it.

22 CE Yes, Well that was part -- that item was on the
23 tape and we appreciated hearing about that man. Did you --
24 you mentioned in the beginning that when you were in the
25 camp you had gone to see the doctor for your problem which
26 was some problem with your eyes. Was that healed at some

1 point along the way?

2 AV Well, I -- partly, because I was practically
3 I was practically going blind and immediately I / lay
4 away my glasses and within the first two weeks and I could
5 see but I never -- I still wear glasses.

6 CE But you haven't, your eyesight hasn't gotten--
7 you haven't had --

8 AV I don't have especially bad eyesight but I
9 haven't perfect eyesight.

10 CE But you haven't had to go to the doctor for
11 the eyesight problem.

12 AV No. But it wasn't completely healed. Perhaps
13 we could expect my eyes to be healed.

14 CE Yes. Well, its a moving account of your work
15 with the people in Hamburg too and I suppose at that time
16 that you just felt a great sense of love to do that. Did
17 you, when you were working with those people?

18 AV I suppose so.

19 CE You're not sure what you felt at that time, hmm?

20 AV Well, a bombardment of that nature is such a
21 terrific thing it just scares you, you know, and I just
22 had to go out and do something. But I'm sure that it
23 must have been Love that brought all those people to us.
24 I don't see what else. And also I came through without a
25 scratch which is amazing because I was out in the street
26 for days and days and days and days. No burning, no

1 nothing.

2 CE Isn't that -- isn't that wonderful protection
3 wasn't it.

4 AV It sure was. Completely _____.

5 CE Well is there anything beside the manuscript
6 now that you've sent to us -- you sent it back to us, have
7 you?

8 AV I returned it and I made a few corrections on
9 the thing. In the beginning it says 1943. Well, it
10 should be 1942. That's when I first start Christian
11 Science.

12 CE I see, '42.

13 AV And then I made some explanations about the
(Not clear) 14 ^{Stalag} ~~summer~~ 17r because actually ^{SEE IT} ~~she~~ was a prisoner of war camp.
15 I was there because of the work of my father but it was a
16 prisoner of war camp. There were other ^{AUSTRIAN} young people
17 there for the same reason that I was there but basically
18 it was a prisoner of war camp for French people, for French
19 prisoners of war and Russians.
20 CE I wondered about that; I wondered why they let
21 you go or how they felt that you would be sure to return.
22 AV No. We were there just to -- they couldn't put
23 us in concentration camps because we were not ^{JEWISH} ~~doing~~ -- they
24 just had to put us somewhere behind barbed wire because
25 we weren't too reliable, from their point of view. And the
26 treatment was atrocious but it wasn't a concentration camp.

1 The object was detainment; I mean no one left; I was the
2 only one who ever walked out of that place. No one left.
3 All the others had to wait until the Americans came in 1945.
4 You didn't just walk out.

5 CE They^N you had some sort of a pass and they,
6 perhaps they just figured that without your i.d. cards
7 or identity cards or ~~your~~ ration cards ^{that} you would have
8 to come back. Would ~~that~~ be it? When they let you go
9 visit the doctor--

10 AV Oh--well no you see in Nazi Germany everything
11 was so controlled-- if you went to, if you got a pass to
12 Wiesbaden there was nothing else you could do humanly
13 speaking except come there. Everything was policed;
14 everything was controlled; everyone -- you always were
15 checked on where you were. That's why it was so amazing
16 that from January '43 till the end of the war I lived
17 in this highly-policed thing without ^{anything} ever being noticed
18 by anybody. Really, you can't explain it in a human way.

19 CE Well that's good to have that picture on that
20 situation and--

21 AV ^{And then} ~~Well what~~ about my father -- now my father -- I
22 don't ^{like} ~~think~~ that ~~is~~ on the tape -- but he was ⁱⁿ the ^{underground} ~~youngest~~
23 ~~one~~ and he committed suicide in order to avoid being
24 executed after, after that big to do in '44 when they
25 tried to get up the people.

26 CE Oh I see.

1 AV So if this thing should be published, it will
2 have to be as accurate as possible. I'm going to leave
3 it up to you what you want to put in but I do want -- he
4 was not executed; he committed suicide in order not to get
5 executed.

6 CE I see. I see, Well we'll see if we can find
7 some way to state that without putting in that

8 AV Well, just say that he died. But most of these
9 things are historical facts and I wouldn't want to..

10 CE That's right. We want to be completely accurate
11 in what we do say --

12 AV It may be better to make the other look not too--

13 CE It may be better to -- if we just left it at
14 that was the last time I saw my father" or something and
15 leave it at that. What we'll do is we'll make these
16 corrections and we'll send it back to you again for final
17 ~~for final~~ check and release and send a little release form
18 with it and a letter but we're not positive at this point
19 yet that we can use all that you've given us--

20 AV Oh that's fine. I ~~xxxx~~^{mean} that's entirely up to
21 you.

22 CE So we want you to understand about that; we
23 haven't made our final selection with this yet but we're
24 certainly grateful to hear about your experience and to
25 have it accurate.

26 AV One thing which I didn't see at the time and

1 but which I see now--the whole experience, as far as I
2 can see now, is proof that the, that Christ will come
3 through--cannot be stopped from redeeming the human
4 consciousness even if there seems to be the barriers of
5 authoritarian governments or borders or frontiers or iron
6 curtains and I have given this testimony to churches and
7 I have always added that that means that anyone living
8 in Russia now, if they are ready for it, they'll get it
9 even though there may not be a branch church or not be
10 a Reading Room. This is what I get now from it: that
11 no one can be stopped from getting the Truth when they're
12 ready for it. It doesn't make any difference what kind
13 of government you live under or what kind of country
14 you live in, because if I could get it without looking
15 for it and get it through the ways I did get it, well
16 anyone can, isn't that correct?

17 CE It certainly is. The Christ just doesn't know
18 boundaries, does it.

19 AV No. I think this is a wonderful thought because
20 there is that thought that "oh those poor Russians. They're
21 cut off from everything."

22 CE Yes. Well that's wonderful and I hope sometime
23 that you will, even yet, even though this is used for this
24 project, I would want to encourage you to write this
25 testimony up even in a brief form with that thought in
26 it for the periodicals, send in for the Sentinel. I think

1 it would be, you could add things like your last thought
2 about that and it would mean a great deal. Or write an
3 article and include that in it -- would just be a
4 wonderful thing. So I certainly want to encourage you
5 to do that.

6 AV When I first came to the United States I gave
7 a testimony in The Mother Church and Mr. Craig--I didn't
8 know it but he sat behind me and he talked to me afterwards
9 about it. He thought it was very wonderful.

10 CE Well, I think this answers our questions for the
11 moment here--

12 AV Now you feel-- I feel ~~the record should~~ belongs
13 to The Mother Church. I mean it's obviously something that
14 has happened; it has nothing to do with me so you just
15 feel free to use it any way you wish and to use what you
16 feel is fruitful to use and to leave the others but I'm
17 glad that The Mother Church has the whole record.

18 CE Yes they do, we do in the Radio Division here
19 and it would be nice to use the whole thing but space and
20 other things being as they are we have to shorten it a
21 little bit.

22 AV Did Miss BAND tell you how we got the Quarterly?

23 CE No, she didn't. How did you do that?

24 AV Well, she was instrumental in that because the
25 amazing thing was that at the-- any time -----after the
26 fall of 1944 I had the current Lesson Sermon than the

1 rest of the world because in another prisoner of war
2 camp--in American prisoner of war camps they didn't
3 get the Quarterly--they didn't get their literature and
4 one of the people that was supposed to burn the Quarterlies
5 took one overnight, took it to Vienna, Miss _____, *sounds like "Martin"*
6 who has now passed on (she was a practitioner) typed the
7 whole thing, gave it back to him -- it was three in the
8 morning -- and then she made forty copies _____
9 to different people and Miss BAND gave her my
10 address and it was sent out anonymously so you never knew
11 where it came from. It did come regularly every week.
12 We had the current Lesson Sermon _____.

13 CE As you recall this to me I remember now Mrs.
14 Band did mention a bit of that and I'm grateful to hear
15 that. That was wonderful that you could have that.

16 AV _____ (not clear) _____ Nothing -- the
17 activities of The Mother Church cannot be stopped.

18 CE Yes. This happened when the, when you began to
19 get American prisoners didn't you, and they were getting
20 their --

21 AV When did American enter the war--in 1940 didn't
22 it?

23 CE '41

24 AV '41. Well this was in '44.

25 CE Yes. Well we didn't -- I think it was '43
26 before we had our landings.

1 AV Well it could have been the British. You know
2 the Americans and the British were in the same camps. She
3 said American but...

4 CE Well that's a wonderful thing and I'm just
5 grateful to hear it.

6 AV Is Mrs. Price _____ in Boston or has she
7 gone to England? She's my other _____ character reference.
~~MISSIEBRY~~

8 CE I see. She's not here in Boston. Yes, we
9 think she's in England now. And, are you going to send
10 us those references? Well that's wonderful.

11 AV Yes. Miss BAND knows me for a long time.
12 Mrs. Price, she knows me for a very long time because
13 she used to be _____'s secretary. I tried to
14 find the people who knew me longest.

15 CE Yes

16 AV One person here _____.

17 CE That's fine. We have Mrs. Band's certification
18 of your testimony and ---

19 AV You can then question this part about the
20 Mongolian Russians; now it is true that they conquered
21 Vienna but I don't know if they were exclusively from --
22 this should be checked and I don't know how to do it.
23 It's an historical fact too. It may have been just a
24 battalion rather than a whole army, you know.

25 CE Yes. Well we could say who were primarily
26 Asiatics or something, hmm?

1 AV It takes a lot of people to conquer a city;
2 probably not all of them were Mongolian Russians; there
3 must have been some of your generals there too.

4 CE ^{AT LEAST} ~~There~~ supervising. Well, supposing--wonder if
5 it wouldn't solve that if we said they were primarily or
6 largely --let's see -- in the spring the Russians came

7 AV I don't have _____.

8 CE Yes. Well, we can say largely ~~for~~ from eastern
9 or Russia there. We were conquered--the sentence is:
10 We were conquered not by the European Russians but
11 Asiatic Russians who have customs that date back to the
12 Middle Ages as they ---

13 AV That's true. Miss Band didn't, didn't say
14 anything about that?

15 CE. She didn't, no. She didn't mention anything at
16 all about that, the testimony itself. She felt it was
17 all quite fine.

18 AV See she remembers more about it seeing that
19 she still lives there, you know. You have a way of
20 forgetting those things if you don't live there. But I
21 think this should be checked, just to be sure that it's
22 accurate.

23 CE Alright, well we'll do that and then you let us
24 know when we send it back to you now if there's anything
25 else that you'd like to add or change, won't you.

26 AV o.k.

See
Miss Band's
reference to
Russians in
the interview
with her.

1 CE Alright and we're glad you're through school
2 now; I hope things are quieting down a little for you.

3 AV Me too.

4 CE She said you worked very hard in your school
5 activities there.

6 AV Well I think -- yes, I do. You know, I've
7 given some more thought but so far nothing has come
8 to my mind to give any more ^{spiritual} ~~further~~ aspects; I wish I
9 could. I just can say that I have childlike trust. But
10 that through reading the Christian Science text book I
11 got this contact with God which I certainly didn't have
12 before just through reading the book which I think is
13 something. It must be true that ~~it's~~ ^{it's} the Truth otherwise
14 it couldn't have that effect.

15 CE It wouldn't have worked, would it. No. Well
16 that's fine. We're grateful for all that you have given
17 us and we'll be in touch with you then, again, when we
18 get your draft back. Alright, nice to talk with you.
19 Good bye Mrs. Vinciguerra.

20 AV Thank you very much, Mr. Epps.

21 CE Mrs. Vinciguerra--is there any one time of day
22 that it would be best for us to call if we needed to
23 again than another?

24 AV This is a good time. The earlier the better.

25 CE Alright. Fine.

26 AV This is a good time but I was home yesterday

1 but I felt it cost so much money and seeing that I had
2 written to you ...

3 CE Yes well we feel this way about that, that it
4 would--the only other way we could do it would be to
5 either fly you back here or have one of us fly out there
6 and it would be much cheaper to do it on the phone than
7 fly so we feel it's worth it. Alrighty. Thanks so much.

8 AV Good bye Mr. Epps.

9 CE Bye now.

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