

Heepen; 6th of May 1948

Dear Mr. Harris,

for your 61st birthday I send my best wishes. May God give that you will celebrate this day many times again in your life. It is a pity the way is so wide, but in my thoughts I am with you.

Is your boat clear? Before a year we have got it ready just in that morning. Your 60th birthday is me in very good remembrance. The work in your farm always had make me joke. The time I have spent with you I never will forget.

Yes, Mr. Harris, you were good to us, some had it not deserved.

As I returned to Germany my mother asked: "How was it in England?" And I told her some of you and much of my work in England especially from the work on your farm. At last she then said: "The farmer was yet a good man." And that are you been. I have got so many things from you. Last Sunday as I took leave from you and you gave me an envelope, I did not know the content. Therefore I thank you very much today. I hope that I have done my debt and duty and that you knew to esteem. Now I come to the end of my letter.

Many compliments to Mrs. More. She was always very kind to us and

müch we have gotten from her.

Now I wish you müch goods and
many heartily greetings.

Your faithfully formerly
Ex P. O. W. Heinrich Schöwerling

Letter from Heinrich Schöwerling to James Harris at Bletsoe Castle Farm, 1948

Heinrich Schöwerling was one of several PoWs (Prisoners of War) billeted as farm workers after their capture during the Second World War. His letter of May 1948 to James Harris of Bletsoe Castle Farm reflects arrangements at the end of the war and in the immediate post-War period when prisoners helped their captors deal with food shortages and formed long-term friendships.

Heepen is a suburb of Bielefeld in the German *state* of North Rhine-Westphalia, part of West Germany after the end of the Second World War until the reunification of Germany.