Berlin, July 15, 1940.

The American Export Line maintains a weekly steamship service from Lisbon, Portugal, to New York City. These steamers, with space available for 800 passengers, leave Lisbon every Thursday.

There are at present no direct rail connections from Switzerland, through France and Spain to Lisbon. The Berlin office of the American Express Company is trying to arrange a direct motor-bus service between Geneva, Switzerland, and Lisbon; it hopes to conclude negotiations regarding this bus service in the near future and definite informations regarding prices and time of departure will then be made available to all consular officers in Germany.

The only present possibility of reaching Lisbon is to take an American Express Company motor-bus from Geneva to Barcelona and to proceed from there by railroad, via Madrid, to Lisbon. These 16 passenger buses usually start at Geneva every Wednesday morning at six, and should arrive in Barcelona on Thursday evening. The cost of this motor-bus service, payable in foreign exchange, is 200.00 Swiss Francs, with 15 kilos of baggage free and excess baggage at the rate of one Swiss Franc per kilogram. The baggage is taken in the bus if there is space, otherwise it follows by truck. It is said to be advisable to carry food supplies from Geneva on.

Overnight stopovers en route are necessary at Orange, France, at Barcelona, and sometimes at Madrid; persons utilizing this service should have at least $15.00 per person in their possession for the cost of the hotel rooms and subsistence. The Barcelona to Lisbon connection by rail is said to be very poor but one can probably count on reaching Lisbon by Monday night. The 1st Class railroad fare from Barcelona via Madrid to Lisbon amounts to $24.00 (there being no 2nd Class railroad service on this line), while 3rd Class railroad fare costs $12.00; these fares are also only payable in foreign exchange. There is a daily plane service from Barcelona to Lisbon costing about $60.00 and taking small baggage at fifty cents per kilo.

Railroad fare from Berlin via St. Magrethen (the only Swiss border station open for passenger traffic) to Geneva, Switzerland, amounts to 120.00 Reichsmarks for the 1st Class, 90.00 Reichsmarks for the 2nd Class, and 65 Reichsmarks for the 3rd Class, payable in German currency only as far as the German—
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If you require information regarding any other service or connection from New York to Liverpool, France, please contact your local American Express office or agent. We are pleased to assist you in any way we can.
German-Swiss frontier. The railroad fares from your district to Geneva are undoubtedly available to your office.

Nothing is known here regarding the steamer service from Petsamo, Finland, to the United States. The American Express Company understands that these ships, Finnish freighters, with a capacity for about twelve passengers, leave Petsamo irregularly and, furthermore, that they are sold out months in advance.

Swiss, French, Spanish and Portuguese transit visas are necessary. An application for a Swiss visa must be made at the nearest Swiss Consulate; this application is sent to the authorities at Berne, and it usually takes four weeks before the issuance of a visa is approved by the Swiss authorities. The French visa must be applied for at the French Consulate at Geneva, while the Spanish and Portuguese visas should be applied for at the nearest consulate of the respective country; it is understood that no delay is usually incurred if the applicant can prove that he has a steamship ticket on the American Export Line in his possession and if he bears a letter of introduction from the appropriate American consular establishment.