

WOLFGANG MÜLLER PAPERS, 1937-1946
1989.133

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Translations

The following letters are English translations of two of the letters comprising the Wolfgang Müller papers.

Paderborn, November 15, 1941

My dear Anna,

We are delighted and pleased that mother's journey to Cuba is finally being scheduled. The local service organization is in receipt of a cable from an attorney in Havana which is prerequisite procedure. Official confirmation from the Cuban Embassy in Berlin has been requested as the final formality prior to Mama's departure. We are continuing all the preparations and hopefully she will soon be in your arms.

Hilde and I are desperately anxious about our own status. Her brother in law 'Hartock' cabled us that he has applied for 'Cuba Visas' for us. We are trembling with the expectation and hope that you will succeed in raising the funds for the required 'Deposit'. I plead with you my dear sister help us NOW - we will be forever grateful. Please contact Hartock, we cannot understand what has happened, surely we have not been totally forgotten?! You must push him and help him - all my previous efforts to leave here (emigrate) have been in vain. I am very ill surely I will not survive another disappointment. Already since August I am under constant Doctors' care my heart is too weak to sustain continued anxiety.

Where is mother going to find someone else to help her during her impending journey? Anna believe me it is a great risk to send her alone because of her age. At 80 years she has poor vision and her hearing continues to deteriorate. She has to have our assistance. Are you aware of the tedious route via Lisbon to Cuba? What is going to become of her alone in Cuba without a friendly or related soul to care for her and to help her. It is inconceivable! This is not like a steamer cruise from Hamburg to New York. Think about it, what better deed can you render to Mother than to make sure that we will be travelling with her thus everybody can be saved. I cannot lose all my hope that a message from you will be here any moment. Since Heinrich has not registered for America there does not seem to be much opportunity at this time to help him.

A thousand kisses to you and Gertrude and many greetings for Hartocks and also to your new son in law from Hilde and myself.

your brother,
Arnold

Hannover-Kleefeld
June 16, 1946

My dear Muller:

Dr. Siegel showed your letter to me. In it you also promised to write me, that other letter I have not yet received.

You see I have returned from hell! One of the very few of the "older set" still alive from the "THIRD JEW TRANSPORT" to Theresienstadt in July 1942. Here I am, back at Wallmodenstreet No. 7, my former home, as a guest, however well enough received, by the present owner occupants who succeeded me here. I have been re-appointed to my former official capacity as a "Senior Medical Officer." But, for me this is just temporary. I intend to move to Younstown, Ohio very soon in order to be reunited with my children there and to establish my permanent residence there. I am looking forward with eager anticipation and pleasure to making this move in August so that I can live again where I can be surrounded by my own family. "Ruthi" is a married lady, mother of a 2½ year old son. Her married name is Ruth Pollock, 18 Randolph Drive, London W9. It appears that I will not be able to stop and visit with her en route to USA as it has not been possible for her to obtain the necessary "visitors permit" from the authorities. I do receive word regularly from Nellie.

You too have had to struggle apparently to establish yourself and to provide for yourself in England. I do hope that your business will do well enough to enable you to remain there, rather than to have you resort to the alternative of having to come back here to function as a judge or attorney. None of our friends are left - I believe you have been informed about that situation already by Dr. Siegel.

There were from 45-50 "K.C." members interned in Theresienstadt. Almost all were transported to Auschwitz during the Fall of 1944. Only four returned, Dr. Leo Rowenstein the Pediatrician, Dr. Rosenberg, myself, and Leo Katz, the latter reached Theresienstadt in February 1944 having been considered "Mixed Breed". After Theresienstadt I spent two months in Deggendorf on the Danube which was a D.P. Camp. On September 1, 1945 I caught a bus to Hannover. The destruction of all those once lovely cities and towns along the way was incredible. Mirnberg, Wurzburg, Cassell and Hannover smashed to ruins, devastation everywhere! Paderborn also is said to be severely devastated. Only our own Kleefeld is relatively well preserved. In our development, the "Partenstadt" only one house was totally bombed out. It was the house of Dr. Braun, corner Wallmoden and Ebel. The Schopenhauerstreet however is totally destroyed, including the homes of the Falkes and the Frankels.

Neighbor v. Reden asked about you when they heard about your letter and asked me to convey their regards to you. Frau Erna requested your address, apparently she will contact you directly. Food parcels from abroad help us to survive these days. Prolonged malnutrition means starvation and is intolerable after three years of real starvation in Theresienstadt. Available daily rations currently consist of soup prepared in a communal kitchen at Eichlus Resteraunt, Kinhröderstrasse [?], do you remember that place? This is inadequate sustenance.

I must inform you now about your own family and relatives, "Aunt Tilly" died November 1942 in Theresienstadt. She suffered from a pre-existing heart condition. "Oma Mille" died in the spring

of 1943. Both of them were my personal wards. It was gruesome to see these venerable old people starting to death in such a wretched environment. "Arnold R." and wife, also "Heinrich R." were shipped to Auschwitz somewhat later on. Along with them went many of our close friends and associates. Bank President Gumpel, Mr. and Mrs. Wertheim, Attorney Schoenfeld, his wife and child, Mr. and Mrs. Reis and daughter, Mrs. Scheisner and daughter - Herr Schleissner had previously died at Theresienstadt. etc.

I was probably saved by being confined to the hospital at the time of that transport. I was experiencing a spinal disorder, at the time it was believed to have been caused by the bone marrow disease, it must have been due to severe malnutrition and has since healed fairly well. I am left with a stoop but now I can even walk without the use of a cane. Almost everyone of the survivors continues to be haunted by the specter of despair and terror etched into our memories. But, one goes on living, I am sustained by my wish to see all of my children again. I find some comfort in renewing my friendship with the flowers and plants in the backyard. The Pyrethri and Roses are presently in full splendor. Beans and Tomatoes are blooming in the front yards, the lawns are gone, every front yard is being used to produce vegetables. I miss your company as I stroll along our familiar paths and even though I manage I do not care to spend another winter here. Fuel is scarce, perhaps a bit of wood for the stoves. I have had more than I can bear in these past years - I was so glad that at least the kids managed to get out on time.

Keep well and be well,

Affectionately,

Felix Bachman.