

## HELEN GOODMAN COLLECTION, 1943-1944

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

#### Helen Goodman Collection Inventory

1. Letter written by Yan Gutman to his mother, Anna Gutman, December 13, 1943. Translation from Russian: "Dearest mama! I don't know if you received my letter from prison, where I was for a month. Now I am convicted and in 3-5 days go to front to expiate my guilt. When I went to Krasnoyarsk I took from the platform a little bit of salt for bread, they arrested me for that. What I endured I will tell you when we meet. Now I am healthy. My darling, you shouldn't worry about me. I am not a small boy anymore. I will be alive, we'll be happy together. I will prove who I could be. This life taught me a lot now... I have no paper but I will write to you with any possibility to your job address. I do not have a permanent address yet. I will let you know when I have. Kiss you, my darling, also my Lyalinka and dear granny. Your loving son, Yan."
2. Letter written by Yan Gutman, to his mother Anna Gutman, December 14, 1943. Translation from Russian: "My dear mamochka! I am now in the penalty regiment, soon in a couple days we will be sent to the front (to battle). I am healthy. I write to you every day though I have no paper. I will write to your job (plant) address. My address is temporary. I was convicted for taking a little salt from the train platform by the Tribunal of South-Ural Railway, city Troitzk. Kiss you, Lyalinka and granny many times. Yours, Yanek."
3. Letter written by Yan Gutman, to his mother Anna Gutman, December 20, 1943. Translation from Russian: "My darling mama, babushka and Lyalinka! Today I begged to obtain this piece of paper and can write about myself in detail. I went by train (with recruits) to Krasnoyarsk, to Kiev Military School of Communications. During the train stop all the guys took some salt from the train platform to exchange for food but only I was caught, taken off the train, put in jail, condemned to the front with penalty regiment for a month. I am now in the penalty regiment and I am going to go to battle in a few days. I know, mama, you have big pain about me, I again caused grief when you had too much. I am well though I have gotten weak because I was in prison more than a month on hunger rations of 400 gr. of bread and pint of wish-wash soup per day. Now I have 3 times per day a pint of cabbage soup and 650 gr. of bread but when I go to the front it will be even better... My darling, I suffer especially because there are no friends and anti-Semitism, but now it's easier for me to endure than last year. Take care of yourself. The end of war will be soon. Do not spare expenses for family and for yourself especially because I need you more than you need me. And everyday I understand this more and more. I write to you as often as possible, if I can get a piece of paper. I do not have a permanent address yet, I will let you know when I have. I learned some interesting things about our father. Perhaps he is alive, attempt to seek after Gr. Gutman who was rewarded for building of Volga Railway. Somebody met Uncle Michael in January on South-West front. Take care of your health. If I'll be alive I will be a man you could be proud of, but if not it is great to die for your freedom, for your happiness. Kiss you fondly, your dear and loving Yanek."
4. Letter written by Yan Gutman, to his mother Anna Gutman, December 23, 1943. Translation in Russian: "Dear mama, granny, and Lyalinka! Today I go (by train) to the front, don't know where, of course. When I come to our place I will write to you. We are dressed warm: quilted jacket and pants, overcoats, etc... Later they will give us warm underwear and valenki (felt boots). Though I have no money, but "what cannot be cured must be endured."

Do not worry about me, I am well. Let us hope I will be alive, if not – only once to die. Take care of yourself, of Lyalya and granny. Soon it'll be the end of war and our victory. If I'll be in Kiev I'd try to come home. Now I think our father is alive. Search about him. Do not spare food for yourself. I will write all the time. Farewell, my darlings, beloved, kindred souls! Kiss you fondly, Yours Yanek."

5. Letter written by Yan Gutman, to his mother Anna Gutman, January 21, 1944. This is the last letter Yan Gutman wrote, he was wounded on January 25, 1944. Translation from Russian: "My dear mama, babushka and Lyalinka! I came to the front, at last managed to get paper and could let you know that I am well and wish you good health. I am defending our dear city of Lenin, today is 20 years after he passed away. Congratulations with the great victories of our army in Ukraine and here on the North front. Up to now the conditions here are not bad. The winter is not too cold. We are dressed warm and fed very satisfactory. Here for the first time in my life I tasted vodka but I will not smoke, not even try. Please write in details how you lived for the past 3 months. My address: PO 10559, Gutman Yan Gr. Answer fast because I could be sent soon to another place – it's a soldier's life. Take care about yourself, dear sister, and granny. Kiss you and hug very fondly, Yours Yanek. My soldier's regard to all my friends."

6. Letter written by Yan Gutman, to his mother, Anna Gutman, March 1, 1943. Translated from Russian: "My dear mama, babushka and Lyalinka! I came to the front, at last managed to get paper and could let you know that I am well and wish you good health. I am defending our dear city of Lenin, today is 20 years after he passed away. Congratulations with the great victories of our army in Ukraine and here on the North front. Up to now the conditions here are not bad. The winter is not too cold. We are dressed warm and fed very satisfactory. Here for the first time in my life I tasted vodka but I will not smoke, not even try. Please write in details how you lived for the past 3 months. My address: PO 10559, Gutman Yan Gr. Answer fast because I could be sent soon to another place – it's a soldier's life. Take care about yourself, dear sister, and granny. Kiss you and hug very fondly, Yours Yanek. My soldier's regard to all my friends."