

**Szlifersztejn and Mitelsbach family collection, 1938-1943**  
**2002.486.1**

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Below is a compilation of translations related to the Szlifersztejn and Mitelsbach family collection. The translations are in chronological order and do not reflect the order of the original documents.

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**1938:**

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**DOC 1**

October 10, 1938  
Letter to Dear Jack? – German  
From: Samuel Joffe, Warsaw

No transcript available

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**DOC 2**

Warsaw December 11, 1938  
Letter to Joe Stein from M. Grynszpan  
On #38 Wilcza Street, Warsaw

Dear Mr. Joseph,  
Thank you for your card. I am very glad that all of you feel well and that you have all possible help from your relatives and that you are cared for by Roosevelt. Joy of our friends is our joy. I deeply believe that your life will find its root in the best way as soon as possible. You should feel very happy that you belong to this exclusive club of people who crossed Rubicon. I believe that my letter will find you when you are already employed, which I wish you. I work at Schweikert...and how it is to work for him you know exactly. As far as my health is concerned, with an exception of times when I feel bad, I feel good. My family is well. Hela lately has less trouble with her liver. Jozio attends school...he's doing well and makes progress even in English. Generally speaking, when I observe what is happening around I have no right to complain. As far as my close relatives I don't have too much naches from them. Adek is doing not bad and Sewek is doing really badly but we believe that they will be able to organize something for themselves. Generally in relation to the current situation here our mood is really bad. I hope that your next letter you will write more details about you. How is

miss Tola doing? Does she feel acclimated and did she get used to the Yankees. Mr. Joseph you write to me long letters and I will pay you back with interest of a loan shark. Best Regards. I am kissing the hands of Mrs. Tola. *Thousand kisses for the little sweetheart with the blue eyes.(English)*  
Hela and Jozio send their regards.

Yours,  
M. Grynszpan

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**1939:**

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**DOC 3**

Warsaw January 1, 1939

Dear Mr. Josek,  
Despite the fact that you completely forgot about me, I still think about you. I don't know how to explain that, but your future is very dear to me, more dear than some of my relatives. I would like to receive a message from you that you are really happy and independent. I receive regards from you via Artek but if you have time I will be grateful if you will write to me directly a few words. I seriously counted on a possibility of going this summer to NY but now after arranging the office in which we put in all our savings I have to give up this idea. I wont tell you much about our new office even though I know that you are very interested and you would be happy if you could see it with your own eyes, our naches. I understand that Artek described everything in detail, may only God grant that in our new location we will have not worse than in the previous hole you know that I am modest and that I don't ask for any better. I think that I do not bore you with all that. So what's new with you? Please write to me a detailed letter about everything and aren't you disenchanted after arriving to the USA? Your letters will jog my pleasant memories of you, dear Mr. Joe. How is the dear wife and daughter? Are you all feeling well in America? I wish, your wife and Dana very good new year and I expect a letter. Wishing you the best ,  
Milrad  
Best wishes and regards from my wife and the family

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**DOC 4**

Warsaw  
Jan 8, 1939

|Dear Mr. Schliferstzejn,  
With great satisfaction and interest I read your letter (short but very nice)for which I thank you very much and thank you for nice welcome for my wife and sister in law during their visit with you. I am glad that my wife had a opportunity to talk it over with you as well as getting advice in this very important issue with such a well wishing and

good friend who not once helped me with his common sense and was always willing to help. That's why I feel grateful. I am glad that after leaving this dictatorship and Hitlerite oppression you are now in a country in which you enjoy staying and in particular that you work and make a living and the family is healthy. You write that over there it is a world of opportunity but hard work. I have to admit that I am plainly envious of these people who take advantage or can take advantage from such a world and especially these people who don't know what is ambivalence and are able to use what this beautiful world. About hard work you rightly named it by name. We people of labor are not afraid of it and this will never scare us. History teaches us that there beyond the great ocean even important people did not get their fortunes immediately. They as well had to work hard but their future and their present is wonderful. Personally I doubt very much if I will be able to take advantage of the possibilities of this world. There is nothing new with me. I work as before. I employ two young women and my wife's sister in law helps me a little in the business. It is a little more complicated to arrange things downtown but I manage. In our business there is nothing new. The winter season was not successful. There were only ten days that were good and there was nothing until mid December. Some of the retailers were not able to fulfill their obligations. The same about wholesalers. Hitlerite company was in a similar situation but they did not suffer much. From all the wholesalers probably only Czerkes thanked them and from retailers we don't even know who. The situation was helped a little by freezing and snow which kept for about ten days which means until Christmas but from the holidays til today it's absolute silence. With Hitlerite management I managed quite well this new "god" is a little retarded to be able to become management. If not Grynspan and his help he would probably go back to Lodz to his previous position. He thinks well of me and probably trusts me. Dear Mr. Schliferstejn, at the beginning of your letter I read that the subject of that day was me and that you advised my wife that she should take me as soon as possible for which I thank you. Unfortunately, as it appears from her last letter, this is a difficult issue and will take a long time because the family can not help in this issue yet. I don't foresee that there will be other opportunities which could help to the reunion on this earth. That's why I advised my wife in my last letter that in view of this unlikely possibility of my coming, that she should come back. For the above reasons, I'd like to request from you to find out about the very important issue and if wasn't so important I wouldn't ask you. I hope that you can get in touch personally but if it wont be possible at least you should stay in telephone contact with her. I am confident that now as in the future my request will not be rejected by you my dear friend. Thank you in advance, awaiting your quick answer.

Yours, M. Goldwasser

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## DOC 5

Postcard

Jan. 17, 1939 Warsaw

Dear Mr. Stein,

It was very nice to find out from your postcard about your happy arrival to new life where in such short time you managed to arrange everything so well and find a good employment. My heartfelt wishes for you and your family. May you have a happy and successful life as well as health in a new free country. I am happy that everything went

well. With me everything is the same. The season was not good in our factory as of now no changes. With best wishes and handshake, J. Lerner (?)

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**DOC 6**

Letter on letterhead of Wholesalers of Sports Equipment,  
Chmielna 26 Warsaw  
Feb 4, 1939

Dear Friends,

I found out about your sudden departure for the USA from my brother in a streetcar and even though I blame you that before leaving you didn't drop by I know that you didn't go to the US only for business but I am glad that you are outside of the borders of present Europe where nothing good is going to come out, not being part of the Aryan race. What can you do? This is the fashion. How come Germans could, Rumanians and Hungarians as well, the Czechs must, Slovakia can and we can not. So anti-Jewish projects are multiplying, new laws based on known laws and only tense situation in Europe and fear of outside conflict temporarily stop their goal to make it into reality but life becomes more difficult and hopeless.

So I thought to myself, as long as there is time, shouldn't I follow your example, or should I wait until poverty will do its job? Since my wife's family lives in New York. I thought that maybe you'd like to do me a favor and drop in or talk with my brother in law, whose address is Leon Brams 1475 Wythe Place, Bronx NY about getting a permit for my coming to the USA. I suppose you have experience how these things are arranged. I heard that monetary guarantee decides or somebody important like a congressman can help. I wish that you should talk to my brother in law who doesn't know me personally because he's been living long in the USA but he should clarify his position and intents about me. Of course I would like to work there and then to bring over my wife and child. I suppose that it would be alright in the future to bring there my family's younger generation and it should be viewed that my coming would be the beginning of this process. From my side I will add that your leaving the relationship here got worse and our youth have no prospects at all. We are sentenced to vegetate. I sent to my brother in law a few clippings from newspapers. My wife described it to him but the distance between us is so huge the lack of mutual interests and relations is such that I wish that your direct intervention and example of your coming should make the atmosphere better and should clarify and ignite his wish for help for help on my behalf. Please write back without being concerned. What can I count on in relation to my plans after you talk to him. I don't doubt that you will have this conversation with my brother in law, and if it doesn't work, with my sister in law Bertha Brams 1197 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York City. I think that you will find both people in the phone book but that you will have an opportunity to confer with them personally. I expect news from you and please let me know how did it go on the new continent. Is it difficult to acclimate? Do you have good employment? How is your family? Are you pleased that you changed place of living? I don't doubt that you will not neglect to push my request and to help one tired and abused citizen in this issue.

Many best regards,  
Feldblum

PS Best regards from Olek and for his uncle Brams.

Addition to the letter Feb 5, 1939

To Schliferstzejn:

I would like to ask you to arrange in smart way to find a solution for a complicated issue and God will reward you for it. Beside that there is nothing new. I am here with my wife since the beginning of December. I was seriously ill. The current events caused a high blood pressure. I am under observation of the doctors hope I will feel better. The accident with Joe depressed us all. There isn't a moment that we don't think and reminisce about him. I am very sorry. He could have lived and by dismissing the most important thing one has—health—he died prematurely. Illness which he had is specifically American. A friend of mine died as well two years ago because New York shortens life. In this regard Europe was better. Here again there is a danger of war and it threatens us all the time. Nice is half an hour away from border with Italy. Would you be so kind as to be in touch with Haim and Trockenheim whose company will approach you. You could request a meeting with him even earlier. It is important to find information about T. and his clients. If indeed he has first class clientele as he told us in Warsaw so maybe we could ask him for a short term credit but cash is always better. So what's new with you? How is Tola and your daughter? What's new with Dola and Abram? How is it going in Joe's factory? Who takes care of everything? And who is in charge? Is Haim interested in it? Tofka is probably already in Los Angeles. My wife and I send you best regards as well as to Tola and your daughter. Regards to Alla, Dola and Abram.

We wish you all the best,  
Shmuel

PS I suppose that you are not permeated with New York ways in which one abstains from answering. My friend Szneor from Paris is coming to NY. He will have lectures on the radio and he will quote from his books. He will take care of movies as well. He is one of the most talented writers Hebrew-Yiddish as of now. Maybe Tofka could visit. They met in Paris.

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## DOC 7

Warsaw  
Leszno 13, Apt 33  
13 Feb 1939

Dear Josef,

Your letter laid her for two and a half months without an answer because I hoped that I would be able to write to you about everything, not only about this wretched issue with Henryk. And that's why I postponed writing until your brother Henryk will arrange it. Unfortunately I am unable to save you from this unpleasantness because this issue doesn't want to go away. Immediately after receiving a letter I turned to Szwarc and I arranged for him to agree to come to Henryk. It has to do with paying the promissory notes that have to be paid every month. Your brother turned to him as well and took care of other forfeitures but mine he promised to take care of in a few days. When he visited

Szwarc he complained about me that maybe I didn't act correctly because I lost my trust in him. As proof that I am not alright, he showed Szwarc a letter which I wrote to you. You sent it to him. This is called turning things on its head (twisting the truth). I understand that you sent him my letter because of my criticism. My good deed was unappreciated. In short, despite frequent phone calls (in the beginning he still tried to explain that he's too busy in the office) and then I called a few times Henryk's sister in law. Till today nothing has been done. I cannot wait any longer with Szwarc because my favor can not be postponed and seeing that your influence on Henryk doesn't work I had to take a loan and I gave some of this cash for a wedding. In the meantime there was a new collection from Wolf and Majer (their company doesn't exist any more). And in the end, I had to pay 100 percent myself. And about you my dear I hope not to be disappointed by you. The situation is not improving. The business which I conduct now (flour) doesn't give any profits yet. The losses I suffered because of crooked partners .. the market all together is down. I am asking you as much as you can to help because of all these misfortunes in the business I am more and more in debt. Don't take these words badly. You should feel happy that you are so far away and not here where bandits take advantage of human beings. I'm ending this letter and I send my best regards to Tola and how is everything feeling? Irka will write the next time.

Yours, J. Flinker

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## DOC 8

Warsaw  
March 6, 1939

My dear Tola,

Thank God I'm in Warsaw so first of all I hurry to congratulate you on the occasion of your daughter's birthday, our dear Danula. I wish you (you know dear it is difficult to express it in words) may she be the sun and the happiness in your life as well as as our beloved brother in law Jozek. Kiss and hug her in my name. As much as I would like to buy her something, but how I don't know. Can I send it so far away? And apparently you need a permit. What can you do? In the future, maybe not too far, or through Bela, I will send her a gift. Tola, on March 20, I will be thinking about you for the whole day and with our longing for you we will celebrate this wonderful day so well remembered by us. Tell Dana that Aunt Irka misses her and Yurek as well. May she not forget about us. Manius constantly talks about you and calls you his godparents. My dear sister in law, I think about you all the time, and I cannot imagine that there is so much distance between us. Sometimes it seems when I close my eyes that its enough to open them to see you. I wont get unglued in the letter, but believe me I miss you very much, especially on Saturdays. I didn't think before that you are so much a part of my soul. My Adam is angry that we are not in America yet. My god, he hopes that we will meet there, but... I'm changing the subject. Since two days ago I'm in Warsaw as I mentioned before. Manius for two months already is sick with whooping cough and only now its getting better but he's not healthy yet. Of course he doesn't go to school. It could be that we have to give up school altogether. I was in Siodborow for five weeks. Imagine that I myself got whooping cough and I coughed for seven weeks but it passed. I gained some weight and I

look very well. Now I prepare for Easter and you know, washing etc. My dear, yesterday we all went to a grand ball at your beloved parents. What a wonderful party. Your father his celebrated his birthday and the boys drank a little and it was very joyful. Last photograph with Dana and Josek in the street was displayed and I looked at it the whole time and the memories flooded me. Isn't it incredible that whenever I come to my mom to your parents I become sad. I don't know. I try to be myself but it never works. These apartments make me feel this way. Like atmosphere on the sensitive mechanism of a barometer. Yesterday I drank all the toasts for your happiness and everybody and Rafal drank half a glass of vodka for Dana. Your parents look beautiful and Bela is flourishing. There was so many flowers and wine, real Purim. Now I sit at the table and I bite my fingernails (you know how excited I am). Adam tells me but I continue writing, actually I talk with you. Enough about me. Tell me my dear, how are you and how is Dana? She must be a big girl. And you develop as well my dear. On the last photograph with Aunt Dola was really really. I am not surprised because Josek is in a good mood, you must be getting tasty pieces and as a result the way you look. May it be for health but tell me, is it true that in America there is no cheaply made stuff? About that indeed I'm asking you to educate me because I am stupid and I imagine that what is our way is the only way. My dear, I already wrote a letter and you didn't answer yet, that's not nice. But now I think that in a few months I will have an answer from you. I want you to write extensively. Are you settled? Bela told me that you rent an apartment. So you will have something to write to me about. So I expect an extensive answer. Again I send you my best wishes as well as to dear Josek. Hug Dana from me. I hope that the letter will arrive exactly on the 20<sup>th</sup> and be healthy. And be happy. And think sometimes about me. Many hugs, your Irka (Irena).

For Josek:

Kiss him from me the best you know how to do. Best wishes to all yours for Alla a kiss. How does she look? Did she forget a little about this accident? Is she happy? Once again, goodbye. Irka

My dear Joziu:

The incident of the death of Mr. Haber which you lived through was tragic for all of us. Whenever I remember this I am taken by the lack of justice. How something like that can happen in this stupid world? There are so many stupid people in this world and how can such an ideal man go so early to his grave? Unfortunately we are unable to prevent such injustice. Life is stronger than us and we have to accept it. Josek, I don't know exactly how your life has turned out, but I would like to know about everything exactly. I heard a little bit about it, that second Mr. Haber will continue to take care of you and I hope that everything will take out for the best. Josek! I am very happy that you are working and that you're pleased with your conditions. I am positive that your situation will only improve. Here everything is the same and praise to God for that but unfortunately there are no prospects for the future. I miss you very much, and we would like to be with you. You didn't answer to my demand that I want to be first in the family who with your help will come to you. I demand categorically a clear answer. I can give priority only to David's son. During the writing of this letter I phoned my friend about a certain issue it is lawyer Alfred Mintz and I found to my delight he leaves on March 16 to New York and of course he will visit you. I am very pleased that I will have direct news from you. I warn you that I will permit him to pressure you and your family that you should send me the papers as soon as possible or I will sue you. On the occasion of the birthday of your

daughter Dana I wish that she may be healthy and grow well and that you should have lots of naches. Amen. I expect news from you quickly. Your Adam.

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## DOC 9

(Zygmunt Szlifersztejn stamp)  
Warsaw March 29, 1939

(To Tola)

How is it going by dear Topcia! Immediately after receiving your letter I'm writing back which means the next day. I have to admit that I am very pleased by your letter. It was quite descriptive and I can imagine very well how you live there. My dear! First I have to tell you that I miss and miss you and I terribly would want to see you. I really didn't expect that to such a degree I could live without you. You grew into my soul and blood. What can you do! In today's times, it's never clear what will tomorrow bring. Maybe I just fool myself that we will see each other soon and this tomorrow here is quite problematic. And the atmosphere not impressive. Political atmosphere is probably known to you from your press. It is a war atmosphere even a lot. But you know it already happened before so maybe it already happened before so maybe from a big cloud there will be a small rain. Maybe you –future fortune—will come to Warsaw? I am alone at home now and I think about you (there isn't a day that I don't think about you). Adam is not in Warsaw and I am sad. Imagine mom is ill again. She was better and we talked about Otwock but now since two weeks is worse again. The same story from last year repeated itself. But maybe God will grant and it will pass. That's why we all are not in a good mood. Dora and Eda keep vigil with mom and sit there all day long. We all are there all the time. I write about it because you ask and I know that you know that mom is sick. Otherwise I wouldn't write about it. But mom herself asked to tell you. When I was upstairs today she felt better. Your parents were there. They come all the time. I told your mother that you don't get a letter from her but she assures me that she writes every week and doesn't understand how it happens that the letters don't come. She looks gorgeous and she feels well. Your dad as well is absolutely healthy. So you shouldn't be upset and you shouldn't worry. Everything is fine. Your parents asked that I should write this to you. Today before lunch I met Bela. We see each other very often. And we shop for each other. Bela told me that she wrote long letters – I don't know but I think that you received them a long time ago. And now Tola about me - Marius is almost done with the whooping cough. The disease ran it's normal course but it took a long time. It's almost three months and he still coughs. He doesn't go to school at all. I had a terrible winter with him and his nose is not well yet. I have to tell you that I got used to his constant sniffing. In the meantime there is nothing I can do about it. The only consolation is that he looks well and has a good appetite. He is really a sweet boy. We come to Bela to her store and he loves these visits because Bela gives him sweets and gifts so he loves Bela. You must think about your Jureczek at this moment. He is really a good boy. And such a misfortune. He understands these things which Marius has no clue. You know he is such an adult for his age. This is the result of his circumstances. Tola, I close my eyes and I imagine how you sit at the table and make faces. I feel that I could just reach out my hand and give you a pat on the tusch without a belt. So I pat my own and that must suffice. As for me I got better in Srodborow but all the meat already melted. I look like a



slim ??? but anyway they say I look nice. I worry about ???. Adam is very tense. About our living together yes it's delightful just like before. People that love each other quarrel and according to this popular thought we act. But...we dream of happiness but it seems that it's just a hope. Anyway I try (this say I...Adam claims otherwise). My dear, do you think that I want to come to you because of financial reasons. No! Hundred times no you are mistaken. I know about life abroad. I was abroad many times. I know that it is tough for you and anyway I would like to work very hard and to be with you. I don't know how to express it. I dreamt about you yesterday and about Josek and it was so beautiful that I closed my eyes and dreamt on and because of that I slept till 10 (in America I couldn't do that) But anyway I'd like to be with you it seems like it is an unrealistic dream. Tola! I go for a walk with Marius not to Saski Park but to a different park because in the first one I feel sad so I don't meet your friends I don't see Ania Beatus but I met her a few weeks ago in the street and she asked to send her regards – at the same time I relayed your regards from you. We don't go anywhere now. You write “enjoy” if you knew how tough it is for us you wouldn't even think about it. We really live from day to day and console ourselves with “bright future”. We all envy you Tola! You should be happy that you are there. Don't be angry with me but I hold it against you your bad mood. So what that we do nothing here each one of us would gladly exchange places with you – I would gladly work hard, but there. Your Dana at least has a future and our children what. And you still complain. Tola! These are not words for nothing. Really. I wouldn't think for a moment if I had chances like you to leave from here. We live here unproductively but it is difficult in these dark conditions to change your life. Over there I would become an American immediately. I understand well that you miss everything from your past but you knew ahead of time that that's the way its gonna be but Tola you will see that in a year time you will make fun of us. Each time we gather together we talk about it - how we are the object of your discussions and how you call us living in luxury and how we women are drones. But we will be different but not in Poland. Tola! Eat in good health your vitamins. I can only be envious. My dear, about Zosia, I didn't want to write - I didn't want to gossip I only want to talk about happy things and the other issues cost a lot of health but if you're already talking about it so I want you to know that I am surprised that after her letter to you you still write to her. She doesn't know what she wants (but in actuality she want Zygmunt back) but she gossips and spreads terrible lies about him. Immediately after the divorce I saw her but listening to her I decided it's better to move away from her because it is just dangerous. I don't see her. She looks nice and all the time calls your Bela. You know, when you left I was very friendly with Zosia. When Marius was ill she showed interest and came by everyday and brought him gifts. When she got a divorce she started to spread gossip. I will not quote her idiotic talk. It is not fit to be written about. It's enough to say that to justify herself she invented different stories about us and now, fearing her tongue and her hysteria and above all gossip, I don't want to see her. It will be healthier for me and for her. Her boys are delicious and look very well. Do you see her brother? That's it my dear. I can see you Dana in front of my eyes. Be understanding for her and save you nervousness for old age. Try to keep it under lock and key otherwise you'll have a nervous girl. May she only be healthy my sweetheart. Hug her from me from Auntie Irka. Does she remember me? Marius is happy when I talk about you. Many kisses. I teach him reading and writing and in a few months he will write to you himself. I kiss you everywhere. Be healthy and don't kvetch and have positive thoughts.

Yours,  
Irka (Szlifersztejn)

Answer immediately!

PS: Mother received your dollars and she thanks and when she will feel better she will write.

My dear Josek,

You probably received a letter from Adam enclosed in my last letter to Tola. Thank you for your addition. You won't believe how much I love you and want to see you. Write my dear Josek even just a few words. It makes me happy. I try to act according to your instructions. I am worried that you don't look well. Take care Josek of your food or rather diet so you will not suffer from chronic illness. I'm glad you're in good mood. When will we be able to dance again? Adam is not in Warsaw. Write back so Adam will write to you. Your son kisses you and asks when will he see you. Be well and happy.

Yours,

Irka

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## DOC 10

March 29, 1939

Zygmunt Szliferstzejn

55 Leszno

Warsaw

Tel. 116802

My dear Josek,

I feel guilty that for five weeks you have no answer from me, counting of course the date of your last letter February 22. At this opportunity I will explain to you how my work day looks and you will judge for yourself if I can afford to write letters. So from 9 to 3 and from 5 to 8 work downtown. From 9 to 10:30 mail. Later: rushing to the train station to send mail. After return from the train station I start preparing the orders and the agenda for the next day. All together to 1 am. Its been a few weeks that I lead that kind of life. This is an incredible toil. A Belgian horse is peanuts next to it. But you know that I am not scared by work. May I only have work to earn some money. Generally thank God it's not bad. Apart from my old company I work for a company that Machwitz in Danzig and things are not going badly. After medical work in Danzig everything goes very quickly. In the last few days I talked with Machwitz at 5pm. He was in Warsaw and at 8 I notified him that I sold most of the goods. To this he says: Mein Gott, you've got some pace. Yes my dear not necessarily does it have to happen in America. The difference is that there you don't have to waste so much time on unproductive work. Anyway you know the conditions here and what's there to talk about. I'm still reading your letter. You write about modern English. Unfortunately I had to stop my studies because making a living is most important and in my present lifestyle I cannot incorporate language studies. I intend to start English studies against after the holidays and I will make up the lost time. Please write and tell me what you are doing there with (???). Do you have time to do something for them? I heard that they sent you samples. I told your father in law that through Uncle Habergutz arrange that they should choose me. After all Im a specialist in this regard.

Oh well. We await a visa for Uncle H. I go to great lengths to see America but most of all to see you. Everything else is not necessary and can stay a fantasy. Our dear mother may she be healthy is suffering a little but thank God she's alright. I suppose that in the mean time you received her long letter. With your parents we see each other almost every day. It is one company when I come to see them on Fridays for five hours. Best regards to your daughter, to Tola to all Americans in the family and out of the family.

Hugs, your Zygmunt

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## DOC 11

Warsaw  
April 2, 1939

My Dear Josek:

Your letter brought me great joy. I am glad that you have more confidence and that you speak English. There is only one way to go: full steam ahead, no breaks, the first period is always the hardest and then we reminisce only about the pleasant moments. The most important thing is that you keep your sense of humor. It helps to keep your inner health and energy. In the meantime you probably received my letter. Hopefully before the 20<sup>th</sup> of March with wishes to your beloved daughter. I would've written more and more often but unfortunately I don't have happy news and I don't want to sadden you. If you were here I could have expressed it all. But it's difficult to write. Two weeks I was in Otwock and I put down rent for the biggest and most beautiful room with the landlord and I hoped that I will spend there the Easter vacation just like last year. Upon my return unexpectedly there was a decline and fever. I immediately called Landau. He suggested shots and treatment but it didn't help much. Last week on Thursday he came back. This time he came with Zarecki who in the meantime visited mother when she had a fever. In one word: a medical board. The diagnosis is quite sad. It's the repeat of what happened last year and the difference is that now she is so weak that you cannot take her for radiation. Josek, we are adult men but our manhood in this case is tested. I try to be strong and I want you to be strong. We cannot lose hope up to the last moment. Maybe God will help and the organism will fight the disease. I did and do whatever is possible. I didn't want to write about it to you because there is no need to cause you worries. You had enough worries in your life and its high time that good things will happen to you. It is difficult for me to keep up your spirits when I myself need it. But I believe that I need to keep up your spirit because you are thousands of miles away from home and obviously you will suffer more than me. You will imagine that if you were here maybe you could do more or maybe this gradual observation of the disease and its progress makes a person more resistant. When you see that there is nothing to stop the progression of the disease there is a painful resignation in coming to terms with the fate. I cannot imagine what kind of life will I have without HER. Despite the fact that at this moment I am not allowed to talk or think this way because our Beloved Mother is alive and even though she suffers greatly we can't let too sad thoughts to overcome us because there is still hope and living people can not lose hope. I beg God for the same as what I begged last year: grant me God that I shouldn't lose Her and that she can still be treated. After all, the disease started three months ago and thank God she had a few weeks when she already got up from bed,

sat with us at the table and together we had dinner. In the evening when I came home I would see her again at the table. I waited for a day that it would become warmer so I could take her to Otwock where I hoped that she would come back to health or at least that there would be a remission. I am unable to concentrate all my hopes and plans disappeared into thin air and it will be a long time before I will be able to come to terms with the reality—mother is terminally ill and it's only in God's hands that we have some hope. My dear Josek you know because you probably feel it that you are a part, a part of my being. When I bring worries to you I feel it more acutely than my own suffering. I am asking you to be strong and I'm asking you to respond immediately and tell me that. Do not send telegrams and do not ask about health in your telegram because I will have to answer in just a few words. I promise you that every few days I will inform you about the state of health of mother at the present moment all other issues are of no importance. I think only about her and I beg God that she should get healthy. Maybe despite the medical diagnosis there will be a miracle. I wouldn't write in such a wordy way about it but I know that Irka wrote and you probably received her letter. When there will be improvement I will send you a telegram and I have hope in God who can do everything. We witnessed that when God desires an ill person even without any hope can come back to health. My dear Josek you have a task, and even though you are the youngest you have the biggest obligation. Don't forget that when you stand on your own two feet and when your daughter is older you will have obligations on your shoulders. You have a future ahead of you and you have to be strong and healthy so later this better future will be used by you to the fullest. We as well have gray reality. We have an aggressive neighbor who swallowed Austria and Czechoslovakia and he sharpens his teeth for everybody and everything that he wants to swallow. We hope that at the next bite he will choke. But at present we live on a volcano and everyday can bring a new unexpected event. In the business everything goes normally and if only mother was healthy I would have been a happy man but obviously it is not fated, and I don't want to blaspheme, I don't want to complain and I don't want to lose hope. What are we—meaningless dust—can we criticize fate or destiny? I believe as well in destiny and absolute judgment of destiny. No human being has any influence over that. I strongly believe that if it is fated I will see you all this year and that's the way it will be. The adequate efforts I make when I will have more free space in my soul. Lately I don't see L. I wish to go with him to New York. I told him that he shouldn't go for July and August and I mentioned that the American consulate requires guarantees of \$5000. At this point he just smiled. He easily could have given it to me. But I think that he doesn't have 100% assurance that he will come back. Anyway, it is too early. Presently I don't intend to permanently leave Warsaw. I want to play it correctly as you say and later we'll see. When you write to Ler. Don't forget to emphasize, and do it as soon as possible that he should do all possible efforts and try to accept Ludwig and Dawid. When lately in the beginning of March I visited them in the factory he asked me Romak Gelb and he told him that. Anyway I talked to Romak as well and he promised me that when it will be current he will accept him. They're producing now a new product: cream like Nivea and to this branch they could accept him because they will need people. Ludwig graduated bookkeeping courses, he types and very well. Anyway, they will find employment when they will want to. Heniek L. always talks about you with such feeling that I am sure he will do everything possible when you will mention it to him. Dawid will write to you when he has a free moment and when he feels stronger. I don't have "time", patience, etc. I'm asking you once again that you shouldn't be upset. I hear that you lost weight and don't look well so I suppose that even without promissory notes problems you can look bad. Remember: take care of your

health as well as of Tola and Dana's health. Health is precious which you cannot buy with money. Eat well and work less. Maybe God will grant that time will come and we will appreciate moments when we took it easy and took care of our health. I hope that that Easter holidays were spent nicely. Be healthy and happy. Kisses for Tola and Dana. I hug you.

Your Artek

April 3, 1939

Today mother feels a little better. The fever came down and hopes grew. Regards from Micz (?). Artek

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## DOC 12

Warsaw

April 9, 1939

My Dear Josek,

I don't know if I acted correctly writing to you on the spur of the moment when a big heartache dictated that I tell you what I feel. My letter sent by airmail is probably still on its way and I take a pen to write to you again. I think about this letter all the time. Didn't I cause you too many worries? I understand that I have to write to you more often because you will expect mail everyday about the news of our dear mother. I would've been happy if I could report to you that things are improving. Today for the whole day she felt much better. Maybe on the occasion of the arrival of Ignac and Sena who visited Warsaw taking advantage of Easter holidays. In the evening she always feels worse. The day after tomorrow we will go to see Landau again. We'll see what he advises. We do what is possible. Mother's state is not, God forbid, but its difficult to treat. Maybe the organism will start fighting this penetrating disease. This so-called "pernicious anemia" (leukemia). Her heart is healthy and if there wont be any complications, and this is the hope, she can be treated for some time. May God grant it that just like last year she conquered that. She has good care. Dora, Eda, and Irka take turns to keep vigil. They feed her and take care of her that she should eat. We have many people at home. I come to find out how is mother feeling in the evening. Even Bernard calls every day and inquires. Well! This cannot be interpreted as bad behavior. And myself, I inform him on the telephone. My dear Josek, I know that hearing all that you surely think "I would want to be now in Warsaw near mother." But in what way could you help? Yes! It would be easier for you but you wouldn't make her feel any better. Even though you are not here I think about you often and I analyze everything regarding you. I feel such hunger and wish to exchange thoughts with you that often I ask myself questions and I guess what kind of answer you would have given me. Two days ago I called Vienna and I talked with our supplier. After the annexation of Austria they want to force my Viennese that he should replace his deputy for an Aryan. This issue is still unclear. We are lucky that we have in reserve an English company even though it will be very different to change to a different dye. Oh well, if there won't be supplies, what can you do? Even though nothing is for free. Such change definitely causes losses but there is nothing we can do about it. Yes! I always told you that you don't have these problems. In the USA when a person

finds something he can hold onto it and there is no power that will take it away from him. Here are higher powers which means racial. I repeat: here which means on the European continent the German plague moves from place to place. I am very curious what do they write about us there? Unfortunately I don't have time or patience for reading English or American newspapers and I make do with reading local papers. Talking about that not once I wanted to ask you that this uncle of yours in California sells dye for jeans. If so, what kind of dye and what is it called? Maybe you could write to him and ask him if he buys a ready made preparation or does he produce it himself? If he produces it, could he sell us the chemical recipe for it? After all such a man is not interested in Europe but only in the USA. I don't intend to be competition for him. If it would be possible to get out of him a recipe that would be a great thing and I wouldn't continue living in this constant fear that the supplier will stop supplying. I would get rid of these permits of import, huge import taxes, etc. But if you don't have time for it, give me his address and I'll write to him myself. This is an issue of great importance to me. Just to let you know, I will tell you that on the English and French market the allowed dyes have following ingredients: paraphenyldiamie and here this chemical compound is replaced by paratoluendiamine. I think that in America as it is here it would be good to find out and any drugstore will tell you or even a hairdresser who sells hair dye. When I will feel a little less burdened I will write to you regarding my coming. I did not give up this plan. It could be that I will need some correspondence from the USA to receive this visa but I will let you know.

April 10, 1939

I continue today. I had to stop because it was late. We are all on guard. The whole day we visit and the phone is in use all the time. Today Dr. Gabryclew. We don't change the system of treatment. Tomorrow we'll do ... I still don't know if it is Dr. Landau or maybe with Prof. Orłowski. Right now mother is asleep and it's the best for her. If it will be possible I will write more often. I beg you not to worry. As we are young we don't respect health and later we pay for it. I expect your letter impatiently. Remember that you have a wife and a child and take care of your health and you shouldn't follow the road of immigrants from Poland. What I mean is "kishkegelt"—you kill yourself to get rich. Eat and drink up to the time and don't imagine and don't build these unrealistic expectations—if you neglect it you will pay for it. Remember it all comes back later. Jozek! Remember you didn't live long yet and as it is told here may at least one of us reach heights and taste the goodness in life. You have to be strong and healthy. I believe in your strength of will and I hope that you will not disappoint me. Best wishes and hugs for Tola and Dana. Your Artek

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## DOC 13

April 10, 1939

Leszno #27, Warsaw

From H. Szlifersztejn

Dear Jozek,

It's been two weeks since I intend to answer your letter. Many reasons caused that I couldn't answer earlier. General tension and my personal tension didn't let me concentrate on writing a letter but partially it passes and anyway a person gets used to a

current situation and even though it is not any better today as during the last months I venture to have a conversation with you. Speaking honestly, not much changed since my last letter, which means two months. I can't stop to run even for an hour except at night. I think all the time how to do in order to do well and at the same time to earn well. As you know we don't search for special luck and we want to work honestly and clean to make a living on the surface and in order not to use somebody's good will because then it is very bad. There is nothing to show off but no special reason to complain because others have it worse. It's a small comfort but right. Now is the high season (sneakers and socks) so I have more possibilities to work and earn a little. Unfortunately total lack of capital for the business precludes development and getting some profits because when the totality of business is small its difficult to get even minimum out of it. Apart from my own production I managed to get some products from a factory in Lodz. I work for them for five months and I distributed at the Warsaw market. I can earn something and if the general conditions will allow I hope to earn fifty to sixty zloty a week and this is already something. I would've managed with that but as you know unfortunately I have old obligations towards Flinker, Kaplan and many others. I go through constant fights not so much legal as moral which is much worse as you must surely know. Naturally, I work much harder than I'm able and I give everyone a little but it means not much and I really don't have anything but I have to live. People like Kaplan and Flinker take away my health and I make super human efforts to somehow heal the wounds and I believe that in the final effect it will be healed but it will take time. Your loan to Kaplan has to be paid now as well. I wrote a lot but it is enough. This probably will not bring you much happiness but I will repeat your words "don't loose hope" but I trust that everything will be ok. Apart from that no major changes in my life. Anka works and earns nicely. Stefcia has a job and she can afford dresses and she doesn't need to take from me and apart from that she is a lovely girl. And Marysia as usual has her Akiba (note: which is Zionist religious youth movement). God may be with her we'll see what will come out of it. There are so many troubles and worries that it's difficult to decide what comes first time will heal all and to all the troubles we have one big one which all others are less important. As you will know our dear mother is very ill. Her illness from last year returned two weeks ago and unfortunately it progressed greatly. The doctors come we do more than possible but we don't see any change for the better. She's very weak and doesn't get up from bed but as always we are not allowed to loose hope even though we realize than she is seriously ill. Now you will understand that all the other worries and troubles are meaningless. I'm not going to ask you any questions but if you want to say something about yourself even least important thing please do and most important how is your health and the health of Tola and Dana? About Tola and Dana I know a lot from her letters to her family. Whatever is possible I read from others. Kiss them from me and my family and God willing may we have good reasons to write good letters. I am asking you to continue writing you bring a lot of pleasure with your letters so write back as soon as possible. Edek complained as well that he didn't have a letter from you.

Kisses and hugs.

Henryk

PS: The new collection, which I wrote to you about in the previous letter I will send to you tomorrow. I'm sure you will get it with this letter. If time will permit take care of it, supposedly one could make quite a business just to be sure I give you the prices once more. Large sheet (note: about paper) the price is \$8 for 1,000 sheets and small sheets is

\$6 for 1,000. The rest you have in my previous letter which I'm sure you kept. If you can please don't delay and let me know.

From Stefa

Because my father is a egotist he didn't leave me any space so I can only send you may warmest wishes hugs and kisses.

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## DOC 14

April 16, 1939

Warsaw

From Artek

My dear Josek,

The day I sent the letter to you your long letter arrived. I am determined to write to you every few days but it's difficult to keep it. Myself I don't know what to do I can not not write because I know with what anticipation you await news and to write is difficult because unfortunately I don't have anything consoling to communicate. I sit and write as if I am talking to you. I can't gather thoughts, which swirl in a crazy pace in my head and in no way can I put them in order. I feel chaos and pain, which increases just with a thought that me and "ausgerechnet" (particularly me) I am the one to cause you pain. Isn't the greatest irony that in life we are forced to cause pain to those whom we love most. I don't know what to do should I share with you the cruel truth or should I spare you and not to write the truth. For hours I dwell on it - for and against. For always wins because I am not convinced if somebody else won't write about it all. Dear Josek! Our beloved mother is very ill it is terrible and we are helpless. Two days ago Landau, a doctor of great knowledge, was here but what can he do. He shook his head helplessly and says "not much can be done, mother is very sick" and again we start with different shots and again I implore the doctor let lord help us so we can treat her and he answers "what I recommended you should do". Dr. Gabryjelew was present as well and he observes mother and treats her according to the recommendations of Dr. Landau. Mother's advanced age doesn't allow for big changes and experiments. We wanted a blood transfusion but we were talked out of it. Constantly we give her shots we put needles in her poor painful body. I cannot watch it. I grind my teeth. May be tomorrow we'll make another experiment. We will inject some blood into her muscles so tomorrow a doctor will come and he will say "Mr. Artur, give a little blood and we will inject it into your mother" - "yes, please, how much please take - take as much as you need. May she only get better." Only once in my life I gave blood I was conscious and some inner force told me that my unspoiled blood will heal this one who's life was so endangered and thank God as a reward I got a sister-in-law and you for your effort got a wife and a mother of your child. I remember that best how much you suffered and what you did to rescue her. I imagine sometimes that God looked on it all through a small window and seeing your super human effort said, "This is a hero and he needs to be helped" so he helped you and you emerged victorious from this unequal struggle. Some place some time I read about a philosophical situation "durch leiben lernt ??? denken" - "through life one learns to say thank you". I suffer a lot and I think a lot. I look for rescue for this one



whom I love most. Often I send my thoughts and questions to heavens will I be able as well to emerge victorious from this unequal struggle?

April 17, 1939 Monday

I stopped until this evening to continue yesterday's thought because of the late hour. Today at noon I came on time. I ordered that mother should not see me in which I succeeded. Doctor took not much only 15ml of blood and he injected it to mother. She doesn't even know what was injected because she thinks it is some kind of medication. After six hours there was an effect and thank God it was positive. Mother feels a little better right now and the most important is that the itching, which bothers her for two weeks stopped. The illness - this pernicious anemia - attacked her liver - this human blood filter. The blood in her veins spoiled and this causes terrible itching and we treat this itching in whatever way we can.

As you see, I am quite cruel. I write openly about everything as if I'm flogging you and again I ask why. My dear Josek, I hope you won't get angry with me because of it I think that it's better if you know everything. I want to increase your resistance. I know that my words hurt you. That you suffer more than us because you're far away. There is nothing we can do about it. I cannot lie or keep the truth. I'm guided by my conscience and heart. We treat the symptoms of the disease because the disease itself cannot be treated. I try my very best and I don't save any means to make it easier for mother and to decrease her suffering caused by a fire be quenched. I don't know what happened to me. I never lost faith even when the surrounding was helpless but today it's the opposite. Everybody consoles me and yells at me "why don't I have hope?" But I cannot console anybody or myself - strange and terrible at the same time. I wish I had hope like others that mother will get well. I always repeat - God willing may she get well. So lets have faith in God and lets believe that the illness will pass at least for sometime. I expect that this letter will reach you when you have already moved. Es soll sein mit Mazel und Bruche - (may you're new dwelling be blessed). My eyes are closing and I have to go to sleep. In connection to the tense international situation there is such recession here and the trade is terrible. Roosevelt's call to those western powers caused temporary easing but we don't know for how long. I don't trust even a bit Mr. Adolph - he is so blown up that he has to burst. This beast cannot live in peace and agreement and it is because of him that this chaos envelops us and there is nothing we can do we are only witnesses and we have nothing to say. I want to send this letter tomorrow. For a lengthy answer to your letter you will have to wait. I'm very glad you will live on your own. You shouldn't work so hard - you should have few dollars less and more health. These long workdays reverberate later and apart from it you don't have the strength for it. This travel by subway they are too exhausting and this valuable time that you spend there should be added to your workday. Again I emphasize at least you should eat right and on time - eat lots of fruit it's cheap there, lots of orange juice and grapefruit. Remember health, health and again and again health. The same say to Tola. Remember when she was ill she only asked God for health and no work will be too hard and she will enjoy life. We are not allowed to forget that health is a gift from God and we should be grateful to God and happy with life.

I kiss the three of you. Regards for Rishfeld.

Artek

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## DOC 15

Warsaw  
April 17, 1939

Dear Josek,

I planned to write something else to you and I almost forgot. So let me know if by chance Icie Elias Wajnthal visited you in Brooklyn. Apparently he's again in NY. I am curious if he decided to forego to become a doctor and started a business. And that would be very good. After so many years in the US, such a young man should remember that he has a poor father in Warsaw whom he should help. I'm telling you this person here suffers greatly. He borrows where he can and patches the holes (read debts) and new holes come up. He needs constructive help, which means hand it to him 500-600 zloty so he could have capital for business and start earning money. As it is now he borrows a few tens of zloty which are spent and nothing comes out of it. Lately I gave him 50z. It is a little difficult for me but this is a brother of my mother. That's why he has special pull with me. I know that Elias is a good man, he just needs a good talking to. Thank God Uncle married all his daughters and he did it on his own. But he suffers greatly. Lately he comes to us often and I really feel sorry for him. Just to explain, I will add that a sister of the wife of Uncle Icie who lives permanently in California wrote that she sent to Elias your address in New York and he expects an answer. Don't you know? A drowning man will hold on to a blade and this son is his whole hope. I send my best wishes and hugs, Artek PS. Did you write to Henry Lerher aAbout Dawid's Ludwig? And did you receive an answer?

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## DOC 16

May 2, 1939  
My dear Josek,

In this hard moment for all of us my thoughts go from a sick mother to you. Everything in me sobs when I realize the huge tragedy which awaits us. It is terrible when I think that this letter will reach you too late. But I can record Her last instructions directed to you: I am to write to you the sad truth and to ask you in her name that you shouldn't cry long. Today she gave me her last instructions and told me among others "write to Josek, send him my best wishes that he should be healthy and Tola and a child should be healthy and may they make a living and lots of health and happiness" and she added verbatim that you shouldn't cry and that you should be broken by unhappiness because this will weaken you and you have to be strong and healthy. Today is the most tragic day in our household in our lives. The most ideal of mothers will be torn away from her children whom she loved her whole life with some incredible unearthly love. In the last hours of their life she doesn't think about herself but takes pity on us, her most beloved people and she is sorry she contributes to our troubles. Her bright brain and incredible orientation surprises even though the whole life we were with her. She doesn't lose awareness even for a moment. She remembers everyone and to everyone separately she wishes that which is most needed. My pen is too weak to describe all of her sayings of today. My nerves are torn but I promised her that I will be strong, "have open eyes and firmly walk the road which you walked until now and you will have a good life." At the end she added: "be

strong.” Could I receive a more beautiful inheritance than these words? I can hardly believe that in a moment of such weight in these few words she wanted to keep up my spirits and at the same time to cause me please by approving my actions up til now. She ordered all to leave the room and stay just with me. With great difficulty and hurting heart I listened to her instructions. When I left the room I let my bottled up sadness emerge. What a great pity to lose such a great mother. Maybe it is a sin to get ahead of the events but I realize that unfortunately we have to lose her, this unappreciated treasure, and irreplaceable in our lives. Each one of us will feel it painfully and me most of all. Only with great difficulty will I accept this thought.  
(Artek)

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## DOC 17

Warsaw  
June 16, 1939

My dear Josek,

Artek returns from a journey to Lvov in a few days and I couldn't resist holding your letter to Artek unopened for a few days. Dear Josek, you found out about our great loss in a terrible way. You rightly understand that the duty to notify you was very difficult. I am unable to describe to you what we went through during the last months worrying about dear life. I cannot imagine that you wouldn't appreciate the greatness of our small but so dear mommy and we still are finding out and understanding what a huge soul was in her. Only two days ago by chance I met Mr. Zylbergeld in a coffee shop. We talked about what hit us, and Mr. Z added to what we knew about her and heard about her. It was difficult to hold tears, which got stuck in my throat. It is difficult for me to write about this event. I do it anyway to share with you in some way what we went through during the last months. I spent only a little time with our mother when she was as if healthy. Then I had a lot of time to see how weak she is especially the preparations for our Friday nights were burdensome to her but she didn't stop them and after a few such Fridays I announced publicly, against her will, that the next time will be in two weeks because it was too difficult for her even though she did it with happiness. Of course these Fridays continued but unfortunately without mother's participation because often she stayed in bed. I am happy thinking that I was blessed after such long absence from her to take care of her. Later, when her state of health became worse, she had all the time Dora, Eda and Irka with her. It's hard to imagine better and more dedicated care that our mother received. Despite her suffering she had a clear mind till the end. Her every word, every sentence were such that often we broke down in this awareness this smart wise good and foreseeing creature is leaving us. The sum of her words and sayings created a small and precious pin. You know, not once I thought of taking notes but it was too difficult to think that I will be left just with notes and she will leave. But I remember every word of this difficult and final moment. I was lucky to be with her for only six months but that's enough to appreciate how understandable were the reasons for yours, Artek's and others clinging to her. May all of us consoled by the thought that our beloved mother left us in feeling that she was surrounded by love of her children, love and devotion that many mothers in this world would wish on themselves. Difficult, but I cannot reveal it to you that in her last moments mother called you. May God grant us that we shall not

experience such difficult moments ever. About other things I will not write now because it is not important. I just want to let you know that I received a registration form for immigration to the US from the American Consulate and I wrote down you, Joe Stein, as a guarantor as well as Hyman Haber. What to do about it I don't know. I leave it up to you as you have most experience. I suppose you understand that sooner is better and that you need to hurry and take care of it. I beg you to do what needs to be done. I send my sincere hugs for you, Tola and Dana.

Yours,

Zygmunt

Please thank Mr. and Mrs. Ryszfeld for their condolences.

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## DOC 18

Page 1 (refers to the translation pages)

June 17, 1939

My dear Josek!

I just decided to reply to your letter written June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thousand thoughts fighting each other, chaos hard to control, shreds of nerves ----at last I decided not to write and to let you know about the terrible blow that had befallen us. I decided to wait until I was sure that you heard all this from a third person. I asked uncle Teic to write to you, and you probably already received his letter. I understand that Leon of the Ryszfelds will be notified, and they will tell you about our loss. Yes! My dear, if I sat down at once after the fact to write to you, I would have to sit for hours to describe all her last experiences. Now, after several weeks, I will write less, and that will save us both some health. I know that you would like to know everything, and I will try to describe it.

During our dear mother's sickness I had reached for the pen and wrote to you, wanting to share everything with you. I wrote and tore up those letters, not wanting to cause you grief. I wanted to prepare you to the blow- to the shock, so it would not be a surprise. We here became anesthetized with the passing of days and weeks. With drop after drop the doctors injected us with hopelessness of saving the life of our dearest. I seldom left her bedside, I could not accept the thought. I shouted that this is impossible that I will lose her. My efforts were useless. Death relentlessly reached out its arms to take her away to a different world ---- maybe a better one. I wrote you two letters ---having the intuition of oncoming loss, I decided

Page 2

to warn you. Later I sent you a card to let you know that she is somewhat better, and when you reply arrived (to Adam) she was no longer with us. We lost our dear, beloved mother on May 10, at 2.25 in the afternoon. Two weeks before her death she started to bid everyone farewell. On April 16 I wrote you a long letter, but I did not want to cause you pain I held it back, but I am mailing it to you now. On May 2, a week before leaving us, she called me in to say good-bye and give me the last instructions. --It was a hard day for me. I gathered my strength and reached for paper to record at once her dear words, I started to write to you, but my strength did not hold up to finish that letter. So, unfinished I am now sending it to you, dated May 2.

In this letter you have her last instructions. She spoke to me quite clearly, and was aware that she must leave this vale of tears and crying. Save this letter, it is a memento of her last days.

During the entire times of her sickness she was conscious –but she suffered a lot –but she never talked about herself, only about us. She was sorry that we are having a hard time, especially that is it useless. You can imagine how I was fighting to save her from dying. She was not just a mother, she was a irreplaceable friend – she was an ideal human being. We had no idea what a possession we had. Do you know that she was glad with every detail. When I was in London – I called Warsaw to ask about her health. That was in the beginning of Feb. Zygmunt

### Page 3

answered the phone, I was happy to hear that she was sitting up at the table. She was so happy that I remembered her, and that I called all the way from London. She never asked for anything for herself, never had any demands, we were her only concern. Her entire life she dedicated to us. What a shame that we did not have a chance to repay her. Now, when she could have lived peacefully cruel fate took from us the most valued life. I hope you will forgive me for not writing sooner, you will understand how hard it was to write. The enclosed letters can be proof that I thought about you often.

I did not spare any money. There was no doctor nor medicine for her. I was thinking of you, you will probably suffer the most being so far away and thinking, maybe if you were here, etc. Oh! I know this well! When I was abroad as soon as soon as I heard that she was sick, I wanted to be near her, worrying about any neglect. No, dear Josek, I did not neglect anything, I tried to save her as much as I could – unfortunately the judgment was in, and no human intervention could help. Whatever she said before dying I wrote all down in the letter to you, written May 2, every single word. I can only add that shortly before dying she called out Joziek my Joziek – evidently her last thought were of you. You are consoling me – at a time when you need consolation. I console myself – I constantly thinking about her. I knew that she left as a great human being, saying: so what! It is enough! When she realized that DR. Landau

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can no longer help her, she resigned.

With God's help, maybe I will have a chance to see you, then I will tell you all about the last moments before she died, to write about it is very hard. Her behavior – her directions, her comments – were naturally a great human being, who realized that he must leave his position. She left – conscious, knowing that she accomplished everything there was to be done. She passed through life without mistakes, reminding others not to go astray. She was showing everyone the road how to behave. Her gentleness and tact were inappreciable. She was guiding us even when we thought that we are mature beings. She carried too much on her female shoulders, she tired too much and left us too soon. But she left aware that she had told us enough, instilled in us many beautiful principles, as she would say: children, now you can manage on your own the rest of your lives. I read in her eyes the desire not to change anything, everything should continue as usual – the cohesion she always instilled in us should go, we should stay together. We decided to do so without any doubt. After the summer we will still get together, either in my house, or someone else's. I will do my utmost we should meet at least once a week. Now, reading

you letter I see you that you had the same thoughts. Don't worry. I assure you everybody gladly comes here, and I will try to continue to cultivate our dear Mother's behavior. You ask if I had difficulties to find a place, and where here dear body was buried. I had no problems. She took care of everything.

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She belonged for many years to Chesed Shel Emet. She got a nice (if that is the right expression) place, she had a large well arranged funeral. There were many people. We took her dear body through Tlomacki Nalewki, Gesia. Many people came to the cemetery. – Mother's old acquaintances, there was also Lezer and R. Zylberman. We sat at home for 8 days in mourning. All came in the morning for the prayers and to say Kaddish, some remained all day. I prayed for her soul to find peace. There were also always some Orthodox Jews. Heavy, nightmarish days. -----

Dear Joziek! Maybe this will do for today, it is getting late, though I could sit all night and write to you, I am anxious to talk to you and share with you everything. After the mourning period I threw myself into the whirl of work, I wanted to dull the inside screams. After a few days I went on a trip. I returned yesterday and found your letter. – Otherwise there is a void – I feel the absence of that dear face, the lips which kissed me so tenderly. I miss to that dear person – for whom I worked, traveled, earned money, and was happy when she was pleased with my accomplishments – and now I do not have anybody..... The main objective is gone, and we will have to look for similar objectives. I should not despair – her command was – hold on! To accept the fact that she is no longer here. I have not given up that we should still meet this year. I have the feeling that you would like the same. I assure you that I will do everything possible to come and visit you

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and spend with you at least 2-3 weeks. I wrote two letters to the companies in the U.S.A. I used to correspond with. Based on their reply maybe I will be able to get a visa. It is especially hard for me, because the Consul does not give visas to bachelors and if I had the proper object I am even ready to get married. Last Wednesday I was on business in Krynica and met there the wife of Henck Lezer. We were together in London in February, I met her there. Imagine, she proposed a match with her sister. That is her younger sister. They are very rich. Her father owns Gesia 16 and 18 (with a partner). Maybe this is a chance – I don't know. Lezer's wife is in a way in charge of her sister, since there is no mother. She will return in about three weeks, and will start working on this. She told me that her sister (as well as she) have an inheritance in those houses (from their mother) that brings 600 zloty monthly. She talked in earnest about all this and I understand the woman is not bad. Believe me, I will not hesitate for a moment, buy under the condition that the honeymoon will be in the U.S.A. How do you like this? Jozek! I will write again soon. We must hold on. Let the love implanted in us by our dear Mother be a guide-post in our lives.

I also hug you dearly. Though an ocean separates us I fell the warmth of your hug, and somehow that makes it easier. I kiss you, Tola and Dana.

Your Artek

Jozku! Remember and take care of your health. My thoughts are always with you, and I would like more good news. Thank the Ryszfeld's for the encouraging words and give them my heartfelt regards. Regards for Leon & Ala

## DOC 19

Page 7

July 26, 1939

My dear Jozku,

Hope you will forgive me that I am using the typewriter. Since I lost my pen I can not get used to a plain pen. In the U.S.A. I will have to buy a new Eversharp/Chicago/.. But lets get to the point. I had sent you a short letter, and at once I regretted its contents, it was stupid of me to mention that you have not burned the bridges behind you and the return road is open. I should not have written about this, because you did not give me any reason for it. Maybe my egoism spoke out. I would like so much to see you that I am ready fro any conception. Forgive my error, only today I realized how happy you should be that you are across the ocean. I know and fell that things are not as you expected them to be, but you are still young and can use a year or two to experiment and try your luck. Here, unfortunately we are exposed to a row of unpleasant and unpredicted surprises. Something you need not worry about. I understand that the living conditions are maybe somewhat harder than here, but instead you have many things we cannot even dream about. We live here from day to day. There are those who make money and don't work hard, and lead a careless life. All thoughts and plans often reverse to nothing. There is no foundation to build on, and we are poorly located geographically. That uncertainty takes out much energy. In America you work a lot, every pay demands productive work. There a person exercises his energy and must devote more hours to work and travel to work. I imagine one does not earn more than here putting in less hours. I understand that it takes time to get used to that constant rush to work, travel by train, be away all day from home, the return, and sitting down to supper.

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Only after supper can one relax, settling down in an easy chair. One can hardly read the paper or feel like writing a letter. On Saturday is a short work day and then a pleasant week-end. That was how we lived in England and I think that is how it is in America. I believe that life in both countries is the same. I want to conduct an analogy and I think, that I will not be mistaken if I say that life in London is almost the same as in New York. I spoke about the negative sides, but one must ask about the positive side of living in the U.S.A. After getting over the first hardship, or getting used to the rushing about, we adjust, and think that this is normal. We are getting used to hard work and also to the conveniences each cultural person craves for. I am not surprised, that a foreigner after 3 years receives an American citizenship. It takes that long to absorb the American way of life. This is a time of recruitment, but later we have every opportunity to make one's way up. You can gain there a lot of wealth and not worry that someone will take it away from you, as is the case here at our Western neighbor. I mean to say that over there one's energy and willingness to work should be doubled, because a person does not work just to eat and drink, one must also think about the future. Now while we are young (including myself) we must realize that it will not always be like this. Maybe I am looking too far ahead, but believe me, I envy those who work harder than I but have a future in front of them. Over there if one buys a horse, he holds on to it. But if also happens that one falls off the horse, but no one will throw him off. Dear Jozku, Thanks for your letter I received today. Believe me, I am doing everything possible to come to

you. I will not spare expenses. In the next few days I will know if I will get a visa. There is a chance I may get one. If I will not come this year

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So maybe you will come here next year for a visit. Ha, it is hard, life is not a romance. I called H. L. today but he was not in. He took a trip for a few days, why not? I will probably see him next week. I also would like to go with them.

As to his sister-in-law I wrote you in the previous letter. At least I don't worry about this. There will come my "Zywyk" (intended), or such "nyzyk" ( a homely one) so I will marry and will be the end... Look what a small difference between Zywyk and Nyzyk. Don't worry about this. It will somehow work out. I will get back to this, but I will not mention anything to him.

I am glad that you got a week vacation. I saw your pictures. Thank God Tola looks very well. And your daughter looks like a forest nymph, may she only be well. I was at Bela's and Zygmunt's for dinner and there I saw Danusia's picture taken in a forest, in a swimsuit, covered with golden curls. She looks like an angel who came down to us, to please us with her looks. I love her as if she was my own, though I don't know the feeling of being a father. I often think about her, about the Sundays I used to carry her in my arms and kiss that sweet face. You should be happy that you have such a sweet daughter. With God's help may she be well. I will try to make an enlargement of the pictures you asked for. Danusia will be a real American girl. I am looking forward to see her and converse with her in English. As to the pictures, I must say that you don't look well. Send me a picture to convince me that it is not so. But not a touched-up... Jozek dear. Hold you head up high and don't pay attention to the difficulties at the beginning. Be satisfied that you have no debts, and don't frown.

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In America one needs to come when one is young. I have an example from Eljasz Weinthal, in almost 20 years he did not achieve much. One needs to be a businessman, and not walk around with dreams. His father was here yesterday, and again I handed him a few zlotys. You must know Jozek, that I am secretly helping David who is not doing very well. He is our oldest brother and I like him a lot. His health is also poor, and that requires money. I would not tell anyone about this, but you I want to tell everything. I rented a room together with Zygmunt in Jozefow, and believe me I only slept there 2 nights through the entire summer. I don't go there because I don't like Jasza, but he does not know about it. David goes there every Thursday and stays till Sunday. A while ago he was here in my office and I handed him some money. Believe me, I am happy that I can help him without great harm to myself. I do not go out much lately, but one needs to spend some money. Believe me, no one but you knows about this, and I would like this to remain in strict discretion. When you lived in Warsaw one could get some help from you, now it is my turn, especially thank God, I can afford it.

It's a pity that our dear mother left us so soon and I could not give her what she deserved. But life is stronger than we are, and these are circumstances that we cannot control. You can be assured that she will have a headstone she is worthy of. When I do something I always have her on my mind, I know she would have been glad of my deeds, because she had a big heart of which we only a part inherited.

David sends you his heartfelt regards and thanks for remembering his son. He is a fine boy and I will do everything to get him in Ontax.



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You seem to have forgotten that Ludwik Esika has been working for me for a long time, already since Szpitalna. I have now, thank god, a large personnel, Ludwik, Habergrutz, and errand boy and lately I hired a young girl. That is not an expensive personnel but I wish you were here and could see how nice it is. An elegant office, 4 rooms and kitchen. Light and pleasant. Hope that business goes well. In general, thank God, I don't complain. My partner with his wife and child are on vacation in Kroscienko. I also have a bookkeeper Mr. Rafal Wald, he and Edka are also in Kroscienko. There is also Irka with her son, and Adam. As you see everyone went to the mountains. I hope of a longer journey, I am waiting for the moment when I could tell you that I am coming. Jozek, I hear that you are going on a new job, and that is going to be your future partner. All right. You must get rid of your modesty, and brother, pull as much as possible. Remember that a modest and little demanding person does not achieve much in this world. Demand, borrow, do whatever, but try to become independent, and slowly stand on your own feet. I think that Haim will lend you, he won't miss the few dollars in his business, and that would put you on your feet. When I get there I will talk with him. I hope that you are alert and that you will soon get rid of being a "greener." Tell me in detail what kind of business this is, and about your future partner. The main thing, he should be a decent person and not take advantage of you. You will be able to work just as he does. You must also work on the language, and try to acquire the proper language. That is not the one from the East, but from the West-End. Also read the newspaper

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and have a dictionary at hand.

It quieted-down on the political arena. With God's help maybe there will be peace. So far nobody knows how this situation will end. He is not really concerned about Gdansk (Danzig), that is just a bluff. Gdansk is a stepping stone to his dishonest maneuvers and greedy advances, but sooner or later he will break his teeth and he will drop dead.

In General everybody is all right. All are holding on, the main thing, that they are well and they are make a living.

Halinka, David's daughter just arrived. We are going for a walk. Don't think that I aged so that I only take my niece for a walk, far from it. I still have plenty of energy and a verve for life. My telephone keeps on ringing, but I do not have the patience. By the way, maybe you could send some American young man for her, that would be nice.

Believe me, there in America they don't have such nice girls as here. They do not have money, but they are like dolls. One of them is right here. I have the impression, it would be enough to send you her picture and you would find for her some fine young American. Over there they pay the women, here is the opposite. Maybe that fantasy will some day come true. Her type would impress and American. She is pretty, decent, well built, not very smart, but very elegant. Wisdom is hard to judge, for me she is not very intelligent, but for some one else it may be adequate.

This is enough for today, I enclose my heartfelt regards and kisses for Tola and Danusia

Your loving  
Artek

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**DOC 20**

Page 18

Warsaw August 2, 1939

Dear Jozek!

Many thanks for the last two letters. From your previous letter I realized that you have not received my letter written June 16. You are right that I am becoming an "emigrant." I am sharing your remark, that this is somewhat unusual, but in the world we live in are so many unusual things that we stopped to wonder. Basically I am against any emigration. I feel that if one is well and has a little luck so the best America is in his own homeland, where one knows the language, customs, and conditions. All this is well under normal circumstances. But where can one find such conditions. So we must look for a different terrain. Emigration is not an easy thing, but it does not scare me. I think that I have the proper qualities to adjust (look I am now a Warsower) I learn the language fast, I am not afraid of work, so there is no reason to worry. The tragedy we have been enduring the last few years, prepared us to accept new conditions and a new life. Dear Jozek, You wrote: "If I do not have anything special here, maybe I should come and we will somehow manage." Interesting, I had the same thoughts even before I received your letter. If my destiny will be to come to America so I will aspire to work with you. "Wirt Dir gehe ich durch lück und dunne" But those songs are later, not yet ready to be sung.

I am enclosing a description of a letter to our cousin – Kalij. I do not know if I scared him enough. But if he will be willing he could do this. It would be nice

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if you would contact him.

In addition, dear Jozek, I hear that they already engaged me with Bela. We do not know here anything about it. There are lacking for it the conditions and possibilities, and as long as they are not effectively created, we should not think about it. I would not advise Bela to get involved with such a squirt as I am. We meet your in-laws quite often. They were here yesterday for dinner with Bela. Very pleasant and cordial people.

I have a big grudge. No. 67 overwhelmed with pictures in every form and pose. But none to No. 57 – let them enjoy the food display through the window glass. Well. Lately, in protest, I did not want to participate in a family picture made in Radosc. Just one picture – the one your daughter is riding on your shoulders, I stole. About your daughter – a film star – she is so sweet, may she be well. Tola also looks very well. Please, tell me why is your face so drawn? I would like to know if you are well. You must eat better, especially I am sure you are not around, nor do I believe that Tola gives you trouble.

Be well my dear, and may we have lots of pleasures. Hugs – Your Zygmunt

Regards for the Rypfelds, Leon and Ala

When you have a chance return the stamps

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**DOC 21**

Page 16

Radosc Aug 12, 1939

My dear Tola and Jozek!

I did not get a letter from you this week. Why? How are you? I sent you a letter and some pictures, I am sure you received them. Write if you did. Did Alusia arrive already, how is she, does she look well. Bela went to Truskawiec for three weeks, I received a letter from her. She went to a doctor and was told that she is doing much better than in former years when she was in Truskawiec. You are not going anywhere. I always think about you and am sorry that cannot travel. Some place with Danusia. How does the child look, and you my dear and Jozek. Does he still mourn his mother, why doesn't he write to me. I am happy when I receive a letter from you, that is my pleasure. I am happy that Haimi is trying to send us new papers. With God's help maybe we will be able to leave soon. That is my dream. My dear child I am begging you to ask Doli she should write to me, I wrote to her and she did not reply. Why? Here is everything all right, we are all well and wish the same for you. May God give you good health and a long life. I should have from you much pleasure, that is my prayer to God to be together with you. Father was two weeks in Radosc and his health improved a lot. He was not feeling well. He has a problem with his kidneys, he has some albumen, but that will improve since he is now on a diet I will remain in Radosc till Sept 3, then I will go to Warsaw because Jurus will attend school there. Bela registered him to  
(back of page)

public school. I am ending now, be well, I am kissing you. Your loving mother.  
Heartfelt regards for Jozek, Danusia and Leon's Ala and Aunt Dole and Abram, Aunt Tofka and her family, and Aunt Hawe and her family. Regards from Uncle Haim and Gemau and Aunt Ide. I beg you write at once.

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**DOC 22**

Page17

Warsaw Aug 12, 1939

My dear Leon,

I thank you very much for your letter that received. How are you, how is your health? I thank you very much for your trying to arrange for me to leave. Any day now Ruta will receive her entrance visa, she was at the Consulate and they told her that she will soon hear from them. Bela went to Truskawiec for 3 weeks. She left the 1<sup>st</sup>, I had a letter from her. She wrote that she is taking baths, she is well, and the doctor told her that she has improved. Dear Leon, I am sorry that you cannot take time and go some place to rest. You work so hard, you could use a break. It is maybe possible that you take a vacation. We are happy here in Radosc, we just miss you and wish you were here. Father was here two weeks and his health improved. He left since he had to go back to work otherwise we could not afford all this. We are all well and wish you the same. May God give you strength and good health. Dear Leon, why didn't you write me if you received our pictures. And why doesn't Aunt write to me, ask her to write me. I am begging her, it will be for me a pleasant surprise. How is Tola. Be well, I kiss you.

Your loving Mother

Best regard for Jozek, Tola, Ala, you and Aunt Tofka and her family, and Hawale and her family and Aunt Dole and Abram. Regards for Haimi and Uncle Leman

Dear Leon, I sent you a letter air-mail, you probably received it. Write to me a few words. Regards and Kisses – Your Rita

(over)

Dear Leon, as to your Koeowa – so T ? does not go out with her.

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## DOC 23

Page 13

Bialystok Oct 15, 39

My dear Jozek!

At present I am in Vilno at our representative. I came here from Bialystok to collect from our client a few hundred zlotys. Tomorrow I am returning to Bialystok where I am staying with Lutek (Davids's) and Ludwik (Edka). On Sept 7, 39 we left Warsaw together, that is a week after the war started. In today's Vilno will be given to Lithuania by the Soviets. I hope this letter will reach you – but when – God knows.

I am writing, because I can imagine how you must suffer hearing from the media what happened here. Unfortunately, so far I cannot write anything consolable. Everyone, except me and our two oldest nephews, remained in Warsaw, and I hope to hear from them in a few days. An acquaintance went to Warsaw, hopefully he will bring some news. Just like you, I am constantly thinking about them and hope nothing bad happened to them. I too suffered a lot from the Germans. It is hard to describe this in a letter. We were taken into captivity as civilians. When we were in Lukow they ordered all the men to leave their homes, formed lines of 4's and chased them all night to the next town, and after one –day's stay, they chased them to an other town. Thanks to quick thinking we managed to escape and free ourselves from the hands of those tormentors. There are no adequate words to describe the bestiality of the Germans. We were much relieved when we saw the Red flag. Till the river Bug and until past Lwow is occupied by the Russians. The rest to the West is occupied by the Germans. In a short time the Polish army was dispersed. It is unbelievable, but that is a fact. I and the Ludwiks will stay in the Russian occupied territories. We suffered enough from the Germans

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to want to return. I do not make any plans because I do not know what lies ahead. I just know that we are treated here like humans, which we longed for.

Maybe, someday, when there will be peace and the possibility of free travel, to compensate for all the suffering, I would like to see you and spend together the rest of our modest lives. I know that those are premature dreams. Lots of water will flow by till I will have a chance to see you, but a suffering person hardens and becomes resistant. As soon as I get news from Warsaw I will write to you.

Jozek dear! Please do not worry. The year 1939 brought us a lot ob bad luck, but maybe at the end the sun will also shine for us. The living should not give up hope. I will admit, that it was a miracle that I escaped, so I believe I will survive. I am glad that at least one on us did not have to go through those atrocities. The Jewish nation is indestructible. If some want to eliminate them from Europe there will always be apart of them in England and America, and in the other countries not infected by Hitlerism. It is possible that when there will be peace, those who escaped will be able to emigrate to the USA above the quota. But this is a dream about the future.

In Bialystok is about 100,000 escapees. Many of them are our acquaintances. Among them is Motek Senator, who escaped with his wife and child, but 98% are only men, because it was impossible to take wives and children on such and uncertain trip. They would not survive because this was a difficult road. We walked about 350 km under rough conditions. Under constant

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fire and bombardment. We walked a great part during the night, and slept during the day in some peasants' barns. Now is quiet in the territories occupied by the Soviet army. We are staying in Bialystok with acquaintances, so far does not cost us anything and we are waiting for things to settle down. I still have some money, and what ever will happen with the rest will happen with me. Heniek L. was lucky that he could leave. Unfortunately, they refused my visa, anyway, I would not have been able to leave in time, since the next ship was scheduled to leave Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, four days after the invasion by the Germans.

Josek dear! I hope that you are well. When you see Heniek L. give him my regards also to his wife. Tell him that Hossiason (?) is in Rowno – there is also my bitter competitor Michal Zyst. Now we are all equals. I have not heard anything about the Zylbermans. I do not know where they are, I assume they too left Warsaw.

My present address: Ch. Kustin, Bialystok.

Marsz. Pilsudskiego 1

For A. Szeifer

At the same time write to me on the address:

L. Lublinski, Wilno (Wielka 18) P.O. box 38

Lithuania for A. Szeifer

Since Wilno belongs now to Lithuania, maybe I will get sooner your letters through Lublinski with whom I am in contact. I am enclosing heartfelt regards for all, especially for Tola. I thank her the letters, sorry. I did not reply. Hope she will forgive me. Kiss Danusia from me. I am glad that I managed to send her a gift in time. And thanks for sending me the travel case which I left in Warsaw with everything else. I kiss you and again beg you to be of good thoughts and don't lose hope – as well as I do – that we will meet- and then we will talk about everything – your loving – Artek

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## DOC 24

November 20, 1939

Untranslated letter in German –  
From Adam in Warsaw to J. Stein

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## DOC 25

Page 20

Dear Natan,

Warsaw Dec 10, 39

After all those years since you left for Belgium I never had time to write to you. I want to inform you that I and my family are alive and well, the rest you will find out from the letter written to the children which I am enclosing. Also our Mother the entire family are

well. Now I am asking you for a favor, you should forward the letter to my children which reside in the USA. It is for me very important that the children should know that we are alive. Hope that you will fulfill my request, for which I sincerely thank you.

Best regards to you and your family

Your brother

Mordka

Szmysze and the entire family live in Warsaw.

My dear.

Above all, I like to inform you that we are alive and well. But we had a bad incident with Bela. She was wounded, and still has a piece in her back which needs to be removed. Unfortunately we do not have the money to have the operation performed. But I am not asking you for help, I am receiving help from my good friends. We are having a hard time because neither I nor Bela are employed. The reason is that Mondrzak and Dunajewski are now the only owners of the factory. We wonder why we have not heard from you because people do get mail. Cousin Loui from Leszno who is where you are writes to the entire family. And I heard nothing, I do not

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Know what to think. Everyone should write how you are and what you are doing. Hos is Szungar I like to thank him for the card he sent us. Regards to all. Our only hope is that we will be able to leave soon and be with you. I believe you are doing something in that matter.

Regards from all – Family Szlifersztejn and Waldon are well. Ignac and Zelma are in Warsaw. Your Mordka  
Manicu, Bela , Rita, Jurek

Natan, I am giving you the address to forward the letter.

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**1940:**

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**DOC 26**

Page 28

Lwow Jan 28, 1940

My dear Jozek!

I want to inform you that all are well. I and the Luteks (Edna and Davida) are in the same area, the rest is in Warsaw, well and in one piece, thank God. I have here a part in a restaurant and don't lack for anything. With God's help when this world play will end, I would like to spend the rest of my life with you, and I hope I will be able to achieve this. The main thing is health. Do not worry about us. Have pleasant thoughts. I also wrote to Warsaw. Ignac and Zelma live at my place on Leszno. At Tola's everyone is well. Kisses and I am waiting for news from you.

Artek

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**DOC 27**

Page 25

Warsaw, Feb. 4, 1940

My dear: Jozek, Tola and sweet Domuiulko(?):

Since I have now the possibility to mail to you a letter I am taking the responsibility to write to you about all of us, the entire family. All the Szlifersztijns and Mittelsbachs are well and manage well. That seems most important. We are all in Warsaw – Ignac and Sonia, Zygmunt and the Davidows live in you apartment – so we are very close and we communicate quite often. We meet at the Mittelsbachs' apartment at Leszno 67. Artek is in Lwow and manages, or less. He would like to leave, but so far has no chance. I repeat, that everyone is well and you need not worry about us, also you, Tola, can be calm. Parents, Bela, Rita, little Jurek look well – they just wonder and worry why there is no news from you – thee are arriving news from America – but not from you. We do wonder why you do not write. I don't think that you have forgotten us! That is impossible, because we miss and often think of you, and long to be together with you. Are you well? How did you get established? Is Danusia already a big girl? How is Ala Rita. I could ask you many more such questions – but I am not sure I will get an answer.

I forgot one very important piece of news about the family, Hala got married and lives now if Luek. I think I wrote you about everything – now we are waiting to hear good and prompt news from you.

I don't doubt, Jozek, that you will do everything possible for us. Please contact my mother's brother in this case. His address: Theodore Grunwald – 1712 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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I am ending and again ask, don't worry, and try as much as possible to do something for us. Write at once about everything whichever way you can, since many letters arrive from America. Also write through the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Regards for Ala. I kiss you as well as the entire family. Most kisses for Danuta – Stefa

My dear! From today's letter you will probably learn what is of most interest to you. The most important is that we are all alive, thank God, and well, but nothing to brag about, we are waiting for a better tomorrow, peace, peace –With

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God's help, maybe we will be able to meet some day and in person exchange all the news. Be well, regards and kisses for your little ones. Ana also sends her regards, and kisses – Your Henryk

Dear Jozek, please write to my brother about the matter known to us and mother. I will write more in the next letter. Many kisses

Your Artek

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**DOC 28**

February 5, 1940

Letter – untranslated - Polish

To: Dear Jozek! From: Your Zygmunt?

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**DOC 29**

Paris, February 7, 1940

Untranslated letter - Polish

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**DOC 30**

Vilnius. Feb. 8, 1940

Mr. J. Stein –

Brooklyn N.Y.

Your letter written Dec. 26 arrived today and I am rushing to reply that your brother was here at the end of Oct. and from here went to Bialystok, at Lipowal, ut Kustnia I heard that your brother was seen in Lvov at the end of Dec. And Mr. Zylberman gave me the address where we can find out where your brother is : Lvov, St. Lipszyc, at Mr Dzimer, ul Janowska N30, or maybe write to the Hairdressing Salon “Lola”

Translation not finished – original continues in Polish

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**DOC 31**

\*\* No date for letter. Followed Feb 8, 1940 letter to Mr. J. Stein in original translation listing.

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Joseph Stein, 1123 Ave N

Brooklyn, NY USA

Dear Jozek! Not only sad but also encouraging news. Your dear Adamcio got a position as a housing administrator, so he is employed. Mr. Grunspan is managing very well since he moved to our area, one of his sisters-in-law is also with him. And the older, Ala, is studying and lives separate. Grunspan lives on Ceszna N16. Don't be so sensitive about Adamcio, he probably plays poker more often than you do. He manages well, the little one goes to school. And from time to time we sell something, which is normal. Irka looks wonderful, so does the little one, Adam not so well. Ignac is a fine man they have a sweet little boy, they live together. Ignac started some business. They live very modest, though he could afford better than Adam. Zygmunt works together with Rafal,



and somehow manages. Only Edek is idle as usual, he often steps on mine and Ignac's heels. Dawidek received news from his daughter. He is not doing so well and needs help. He is not feeling too well, the old stomach sickness returned and he needs to be on a diet and nourishment. I know they are having a hard time but they never ask for anything. Uncle Icie has a very hard time, I help a bit, but this is like a drop in the ocean. In general, I have adjutants—mother's in inheritance. But it is better to give than to take. Milrad is also having a hard time, I think he will move to the country. I have not seen Flinkiers the entire time. As to the

Page 31

Rawieckis, I do not know about them

Dear Tolenka!

I will tell you in a few words that in the letter you sent to your family, there was so much despair, as they would be dying of hunger, God for bid. I must assure you that it is not so. I will start with the youngest. Jurek looks very well, a handsome boy, he studies. As to the fractured leg, it is long forgotten. Grandma adores him and there is nothing too dear for him. Bela looks the same as when you departed may God punish me if I am exaggerating. She is well dressed. Mother has not changed at all, only from time to time she complains about her legs. A woman from the clinic comes in. Only father has changed, but not for the worst. He is very proud that he is slim and that he had lost his belly. And he is happy that he looks 20 years younger, and he is feeling well. They eat well and have plenty of provisions, with God's help, maybe to the end. Father is bored, he has nothing to do. A woman has always work. Zygmunt is often with them. Ryta has lost weight, she is a good looking woman and she is well. She would like to be together with Leon. Her father-in-law is annoying, he became strange since he stopped working. He would like her to stay in the house all the time, but her nerves cannot take it. I too cannot stay in the house, so we get together daily. Lola Szenberg has a coffee shop so we meet there often. I suspect that the old man has a crush on her and therefore gives her a hard time.

I am kissing you Tolenka, Jozek and your sweet daughter and regards for Mr.  
Leon

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## DOC 32

Postcard dated March 4, 1940, Warsaw from Szliferstein to Joe Stein, Brooklyn

My dear,

I am very happy that you got my letter. We are very grateful that you want to help us. For the time being we only need entry permission papers from you, so that we will again be happily together and live with you. I hope that you will be successful. We are all healthy (also family Mittelsbach) and Rita who live in our apartment. Here we had a very hard winter, but thank G'd it is passed. Ira and Marcus were also happy to read your letter and are looking forward to the news of being together with you again. This is our great hope and we believe that you will do everything possible to make this possible. I kiss Tola Danusia and you a thousand times, your Adam. Heartiest kisses Irena. Our birth dates: Irena, nee Ajzher, August 10, 1908

Marian, October 27, 1932

Abraham, June 1, 1900

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**DOC 33**

Vilno March 8, 1940

Mr. J. Stein  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

I received today a wire from your brother, he would like to come to Lithuania. He is making all efforts, and so do I. I will be next week in the Consulate. I will let you know about the outcome. For your information I am forwarding my address: Mr. Szlifersztejn, as you asked for in your previous letters, Arthur Szlifersztejn, Lwow, Sykslulka St N 19/14 by Mr. Rantensztein.

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**DOC 34**

Vilnius, March 16, 1940

Mr. J. Stein!

I received your post card written January 21<sup>st</sup> and like to inform you that I wrote you Me. Szlifersztejn's address in my previous letter. To make sure I am repeating it: Rantensztein, Syktulka St 19/14 Lwow. As to Artek, I am trying to help him, and will do everything possible. If I will need money, then I will ask you. You may expect further news from me. Sincerely

E. Lublinskis

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**DOC 35**

Postcard dated March 20, 1940 from Obodjanikoff to same Mrs. J. Stein

My Dear,

I was very happy to receive the card. We are all together and healthy. Ignaz and Sonia are living in your apartment. We are expecting a baby from Sonia at the end of April or beginning of May. Halina got married and now lives in Brzese, also with her brother. Eder is doing well. Regards and kisses to you and Puppie, (name illegible)

P.S. Please excuse my poor German

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**DOC 36**

Postcard dated March 20, 1940 from same sender to same recipient as above

My dear:

I thank you for your card with which I was very happy. We are all healthy. Ignatz and Sonia live at Lemno. At the end of April or beginning of may we expect a baby, and the Lord should give that all goes well. Arthur is living in Lemberg. Halina married a

lawyer and the parents are happy. The father longs for his son greatly. My Halina is healthy and a girl to be proud of. Regards and kisses your Danusia

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**DOC 37**

Letter: No transcript recorded here - March 30, 1940 – English

To: Joseph Stein from Arthur

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**DOC 38**

Vilnius Apr 4, 1940

Dear Mr. Stein,

You will probably be surprised with my card, but I got your address from my father, from Warsaw, asking me to write to you. My father was always fond of you, and he asked me to let you know that after all they are well. Even the apartment was not damaged. I am receiving from them comforting letters, but you understand that my wish is to get them out from that hell. As for myself, my wife, I, our child, and my brother escaped from Warsaw Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. And after long wandering we arrived in Vilnius. My sister Roth and her family are already in Canada. My brother-in-law's brother, Wilhelm Roth, New York Hotel Delmonica, Park Ave at 50<sup>th</sup> St. is trying to arrange for us to go to Mexico. I hope it will be in the beginning of May. Under the above address you can find out everything. I would be grateful if you

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would write to my parents, Warsaw, Chmielna 20 nr. 15. At the occasion I wish you success and all the best –

H. Pajewski

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**DOC 39**

April 11, 1940

Letter to Joseph Stein from Arthur

No transcript given here – letter in English.

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**DOC 40**

Lwow, April 30, 1940

Letter – Untranslated

My Dear Jozek!

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**DOC 41**

Warsaw, May 3, 1940

Postcard – untranslated - Polish

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**DOC 42**

Lwow, May 8, 1940

Letter – untranslated – Polish

To: My dear Jozek!? From: Artek?

\*\* I have matched the envelope in the folder with this letter – seems to be from same person, same handwriting, same pen, etc. They were near each other in a large, unsorted pile of papers.

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**DOC 43**

May 24, 1940

Postcard – untranslated - Polish

To: My dear Jozek? From: Artek?

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**DOC 44**

Vilnius, May 25, 1940

Sir!

I received your card of April 6<sup>th</sup>, and like to inform you that I have no news from your brother lately. I find out through a third person that, that apparently established a restaurant.

As soon as I will hear any news from your brother I will write or send a telegram.

You may be quite at ease as to your brother. He has probably established himself and works. If I get a letter on any news I will write you at once.

Respectfully – E. Lublinskis

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**DOC 45**

Warsaw, May 28, 1940

Untranslated letter – Polish

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**DOC 46**

Postcard from Warsaw, dated May 31, 1940 from Zygmunt Szlifesztejn, Warsaw Ghetto to Joe Stein, Brooklyn

My dear Joe:

I am very surprised that you write so little. I hope that our various news via the Red Cross has arrived. We are all healthy, thank G'd, and hope to hear the same from you. We heard from Arthur, that he received news from you. Please express my thanks to Armand Kaliz, that he is trying on my behalf. I would like to know whether my papers went to the Consulate in Warsaw or Berlin. I am writing to Berlin today, in the name of your parents, for a visa. We have already told you that Selma has given birth to a son named Robert, we are now living together. David sends regards and to tell you that his son, Lejb, was born on January 3, 1920. I am now writing at your in-laws who send sincere regards to you your wife and child. We all send our heartiest regards. I send you kisses by the wagon load for Tola and Dania, your Zygmunt.

I am sending best regards and kisses Mother

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**DOC 47**

June 1, 1940

Untranslated letter in Polish

To: Dear Doctor?, Dear Alusni?

From: Bela, another note added by Adam?

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**DOC 48**

Warsaw, June 4, 1940

Letter – untranslated – Polish

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**DOC 49**

Lwiw, June 7, 1940

Letter – untranslated - Polish

To: My dear Jozek

**DOC 50**

Warsaw, July 16, 1940

Letter – untranslated - Polish

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**DOC 51**

Warsaw, July 30, 1940

Letter – untranslated – Polish

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**DOC 52**

September 20, 1940

Letter – untranslated – Polish

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**DOC 53**

Warsaw, October 2, 1940

Letter – untranslated – Polish

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**DOC 54**

Warsaw, October 22, 1940

Letter – untranslated - Polish

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**DOC 55**

Warsaw, October 24, 1940

Letter – untranslated –  
To: My dear Dola & Abram!?

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## DOC 56

Date: October 25, 1940

Mr. J. Stein  
1123 Ave N  
Brooklyn, NY USA

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My dear! Today I received your letter written 2 week ago. Henek also received a letter but I did not read it yet. We are very happy that we had recently much news from you. I wrote to you air-mail about a week ago, and am writing to you again because I promised that I will write every week. So in sequence I will list that Davidows, Edek and Son, Henieks and daughter, my \_\_\_\_\_ and sons, Doran and Jasiiek, Adams with Marusio (Marus, unfortunately, was very sick, but Thank God the worst is over and he is on the way to recovery) farther –Rafalows with Ludwik. (Edzia sends special regards, I talked her into, so she may write to you) the Ignaces with their Robert (the smallest descendant of the large family) – We are all well, thank God. The next is Artek. We have not heard from him for a long time. In the last letter I asked you to inform me when you last heard from him. You wrote “four weeks ago” that is 6 week until you sent the letter. That is not too bad, because we have no news for 4 months. Let’s hope that he is well and we will soon hear from him.

Tola dear! Thanks for your compliment that I am a nice boy (thought somewhat lazy) and for the recognition that I write often to your parents. They do not reciprocate, but I have no ill feelings. They are very good and pleasant people. We see almost daily the old \_\_\_?\_\_\_. It is a shame that the old as well as Bela and Rita are very upset by the impossibility to leave here. The change is indescribable

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Slowly the funds are exhausted, and to earn money is very hard. You understand that there is no reason to be in a good mood. Bust as long as a person is alive thee is hope that things will improve. Hugs for you and your dear daughter, and wish you good health and good news. Regards for Leon, Ala and the rest of the family

Always yours – Zygmunt

Joziek dear! Again I turn to the subject regarding the food packages. Though I do not like to burden you, but they are very helpful. If possible try to send at least a few packages monthly to our address: Leszno 57/21 on mine, Abram’s and Isaak’s names. Let me know the value of the packages. Some tea, vanilla of a good quality, all in cans of a kilo or half kilo would be useful. If it is possible so do it, the sooner the better. D.

I am waiting for a letter from you. I am kissing all of you. Write often, and remember that for air-mail 3 coupons are needed. I am kissing you kisses fro my Danusia Rafel?

Bela

My dears! At last I have a chance to write a few words. We are well, I am sending regards – Eda

## DOC 57

Warsaw, December 6, 1940

Letter – untranslated - Polish

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## DOC 58

My dear Jozek!

Warsaw Dec. 23, 1940

I received your letter written Nov. 10, and for all kind of different reasons I am just now replying. I will try to answer your questions. I read almost all your letters written to the family and also the letter written to Dora. Everybody here is healthy and manage somehow. If I do not write it is only because I am not in the mood. Eda Rafal and -----

-  
You often ask about, are also well. From Artek we have no news for the last 4 months. We know that he is far from here, and we believe that nothing happened to him, and he will eventually return, healthy. Ignac and Selma are well and the baby is developing well. You will wonder that we live together in your apartment. We and the Grynszpans moved here about two months ago. Pojewca and others you know also live close by. You ask how I am. Almost the entire summer I spend in a boarding house, close to the apartment, where we used to live with Toba during bachelor days. You probably recall that boarding house, it was visible from our balcony to the

Page 39

Left. Shortly after we went through a lot with Irka, it almost took away the desire to live. It reminded me of your Toba's illness. The situation was similar. Imagine our Marus, that well built and admirable boy after a light diphtheria, one day suddenly stopped walking, then talking and moving around. Paralysis of the nerves in the worst state. I moved the heavens and earth. I took the best doctors and professors that were available, and with the help of sine friends, doctors, after almost 3 months the child returned to life. Now is completely recovered. We feed him well and we have now a strong boy. During that sickness he behaved better than an adult. He endured the worst treatments, among them 20 blood transfusions, I would not write to you about this, but I want to share with you my happiness. He is sitting now next to me, I look at him and do not believe that this sweet face was in such danger. Joziu, that sickness was very expensive, and used up all I possessed (Till May I was doing well). Now I am sitting at home and have no income. I know from your letters that you too are not doing too well, but I am begging you (even if it is hard for you) to send us at least 2-3 food packages a month, mainly fat cocoa, tea, because those are very valuable items. I am sure you will not neglect this. True? In the next letter I will write about other matters. Irka, Marus and I kiss you. We are happy that you are with Tola's family. Dana looks delightful on the pictures. Kiss here from me. Awaiting soon news from you.

Your Adam

To my godparents and to sweet Danusia

I am sending many kisses – Marek



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**DOC 59**

Page 40

Warsaw, December 26, 1940

Dear Jozek!

Reading Dora's letter I learned that you already have your own business, I am very happy, and wish you lots of luck, we should have from you lots of satisfaction. We left old folks, but we have good news from the children. Lutek teaches mathematics, and Halina and her husband work in the hospitals. They are doing well.

Jozek! A few months ago you wrote that you sent ort several packages on my address, but so far we did not receive any. Jozek! I would not write to you about this, it was not urgent. I know that I do not need a third person for my request to reach you, and am sure you would like to do what is possible. Recently Ignac received a package from you and he was pleased. We admired your daughter, she is a real beauty. A photographer lives here and I asked him to make a portrait from the picture. We admire her all the time. Do you all look as well or just Danusia. Dear Tola! How are you, and why do you not write us directly a few words from you.

Heartfelt regards from all. Kisses from me and Roza. I am wishing you all the best. And I am expecting soon good news from you.

Your devoted brother and brother-in-law

D. Szliferstein

P.S. Halina's address you requested:

Luek St. Krasnaja Arnuu 47 W.3

H. Szyruan

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**DOC 60**

Undated – circa late 1040 by placement with other letters

From Bela and Jurek (5 pages)

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**1941:**

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**DOC 61 – not found in collection, but in translation document**

Letter to J. Stein

Warsaw January 6, 1941

My dears,

We are, Thank God, healthy, which we wish for you as well. There are no news here, we are just surprised that we have no news from you for four weeks already. How are you, what's new with you, how do you live, what's with Jozek in his business, how is it going, what kind of business is it and are you making any money? When is the wedding of my

beloved Alusia? Sem (Sam) was supposed to write to us as well as Maks – so what happened? And no wonder that Jozek didn't write at all about his business. And now my dear children, I want you to know that it is possible to travel from here and there is a way out. We were informed about it from the Hamburg America Lines and we wrote to the consul in Berlin, via the office of the ship line, because in our papers from the consul in Warsaw it says that we can get a visa in 1941. Now it is all up to you. You can push it forward, so we could leave as soon as possible and we could be with you in the spring. So I am asking you, when you will get news from the office in Brooklyn, do not delay, take care of everything quickly, because maybe additional papers will be needed. The same as for the ship card, additional papers are needed immediately. Jozek should be in touch with his cousin Kalisz, who sent papers for Zygmunt. Tell him not to delay and to make effort that we should travel together, and if he does not agree to pay for all ship cards (tickets), so you should take care of it as you did for us.

My dear Leon, regarding Rita – yes, we would like to go together, but she as a wife going to her husband has better chances to get a permit to leave, that's what they told us in the office. So you need to make an effort to take care of all formalities quickly, we cannot take care of it on this end. She could leave soon. The same with our case – we could go soon if you will take care of everything – this is what they told us in the office. So do not be idle, go and do it. We received five food packages from Mr. Pave, and we are very grateful for it. If you see him, please tell him that. Many best regards. Let us know what you accomplished in the arrangements. Your loving Father.  
Regards and kisses for the whole family, and to aunt Tofka I wish good luck on the occasion of her son's wedding.

My dear children,

What father wrote to you, I want you to know, it is very important. We have a chance to go to America, all depends on you, how you will take care of it. Remember not to take it lightly. If you will get a notice from the ship line and if additional papers will be needed, I beg you to take care of it immediately. Remember what I am telling you. If the office will ask you for a ship card, take care of it, this will make our journey possible. If you will be willing, we can be together for spring holidays – it all depends on you. Remember children, this is a matter of life. Be well, remember not to take it lightly. I would write myself to Haim, but he does not read Polish, so I cannot write to him. I am writing to you and Father wrote separately to Samuel. Read this letter together, the one to uncle, and give us an answer immediately what you managed to accomplish. If there is no answer from the ship office, you have to wait until you will get a notification. I am sending regards and wishes for all. Mother.

My dear Jozio,

As one can deduct from this letter, efforts are made to make leaving possible. Please contact Kalisz or Weiner and tell him that if the Hamburg-America Lines will ask him he should say that he will pay all costs. If he will refuse to send money, do as your father-in-law tells you to do, which means that you will send him money to cover the cost. Anyway, somebody has to confirm their will to cover the costs. All what possible is being done now, a journey now would be like a winning lottery ticket. All the best. We made copies of Danusia's portrait and we all carry it with us. We are all healthy, may we just withstand it all. Your Zygmunt.

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## DOC 62

Letter dated January 8, 1941

Dear Joe:

First of all I want to thank you very much for your package, everything tasted wonderfully.

If it is not difficult for you, and it does not cost too much, you can send something again. We would like tea, cocoa and others for my little boy.

I am very glad to hear that you are doing well, we are also doing well, thank G'd, and the main thing is that we are all healthy. My greatest happiness will be when we will all be together again and I can show you my Robert. Without doubt a golden child. I am enclosing a photo. I have seen the picture of your daughter, beautiful, no doubt. Please write how things are with you as far as work is concerned. Sorry, but we have not had any news of Arthur since June, did you get a letter from him?

Uncle Icek Wajutal is here right now, he begs me to ask how is his son Elias. The best way to do this is to find the address of his sister-in-law, she lives at 45 Fox Avenue, San Jose, California, USA, and her name is Bella Naches. You can write to her that uncle Icek Wajutal asks her to send a love package, because they are not doing very well. He now lives at Pavia 7/8 with his daughter, and Elias should also write to him. He sends regards to all of you.

In the meantime, with many regards and kisses for your wife and Danusia, as well as the family. Write again soon, your Ignac.

I should not forget to thank you for the lovely package which arrived on our wedding anniversary, December 20, 1940. To all of you, many regards and kisses, your Selma.

My Joe:

I sent you a very detailed letter of December 23. Most likely you have received this letter and I am expecting a quick reply. Our son is well already and we have made a special picture for you, which we are including.

The boy looks very well and we are very happy that the difficult illness is over. Ignac sends regards and kisses you a thousand times. we are expecting news, your Adam, Mother

I kiss you heartily Ignac

My dear ones:

We are very happy that you are doing well, hopefully you like the pictures. Bela sends you everything good and many regards. Next time I will write more.

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## DOC 63

Postcard from Jufanigstejn [?]; Warsaw, 14/5 Leszno Street

To: Joe Stein in NY

April 5, 1941

Dear Mr. Stein,

I received a letter from my son and regards from you and your family. I am very happy that you are helpful to my children. I must have done something good that you remember me from far away. I would be delighted to get a response from you. I can convey your wishes to your brother and his family. I got your address from him as we live on the same street. Thank God we are healthy. Be well, the one who sends us packages. You good friend, Mojzesz [?] Best wishes from my wife and your friends.

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**DOC 64**

Postcard

Letter with envelope

Sent by Romana Warszawska in Wlochy, near Warsaw; Sieradzka Street

To Joseph Stein in NY

Letter written in Warsaw on April 6, 1941

My dear Jozio,

We received your letters from January 30 and February 15. We received your packages as well. Even though it is like a drop in a sea, because our needs are presently ten times greater. I know that you do, my dear Jozio, what you can and we thank you for it. I am asking that you will remember us always. It seems that we will continue to live on Leszno Street for a long time to come [*in the ghetto*] and it is so crowded here. There is no place to move. The packages are sent to us by Joao Alves, Lisboa (Portugal) Rue de Arsenal 100 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Write to them and tell them that the tea and coffee and cocoa are of inferior quality and if they will not include a better product, you will use somebody else. Each package is 400-450 gr. [*a pound*] so they are minimally useful. In your letter you asked what was the reason for my treatment. I am letting you know that in order to go to a pension you do not need to be sick. You just go and rest. There were many acquaintances and strangers there.

All ours and Tola's family are healthy and all dream to see you as soon as possible. Is it true that your uncle Joe wanted to come here for a visit? Write about it. Ignac and Selma send their best. Many kisses for all of you and to sweet Danusia especially. Write often. Adam.

My most beloved of all brothers-in-law,

I would give a lot to see you. I know all about you, what you can gather from letters. Even though so much time has passed I miss you and think about you often. I cannot replace you with anybody else. Tolenka, my dear, Tobale – do you still remember me? Unfortunately there is neither mood nor anything else that will make it possible to write at length, as I would like to. I went through a lot and what is ahead of us? I admire your gorgeous Dana. Marus talks about you often. My dears, in my thoughts I am always with you. Yours Ira. We are sending our photograph – it didn't come out well.

*Answered 6/3/41*

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## DOC 65

Letter to Joe Stein in NY  
From Bela in the Warsaw ghetto  
April 29, 1941

My beloved,

Your letters from March 24 arrived. We expected this letter with great anxiety, so each time the bell rang, everybody ran to the door yelling: mail. Lately it happens rarely. We so very much wanted to know how did the wedding celebrations of Alice go and who stood for her parents. Dear Tola, you write that you and Leonard cried a lot on this day. I understand that, instead of this being a day of joy it turned into a day of sadness, and you can only imagine how we lived through this day. The letter dated on the wedding day arrived 10 days earlier to us than to the parents so you can imagine that they cried for the whole 10 days. I had to encourage them for the whole time, despite the fact that my heart was aching as well. We do not have any more hope that we will see each other again at all. If not food packages from the uncle [sentence cut out]. We believe and trust that you are the only ones who will not forget us and will continue to help us. Our existence depends on you. We cannot help ourselves and we bless uncle Sam, because we know that he tries hard and remembers us. I am very happy that at least from you we get good news and that you are Thank God healthy. You, Joe, have hopes that your business will turn out well and I wish that for you with all my heart. I know that you are a courageous man and I believe in you. Thank you for forwarding a letter to Paul Haber, but I am sorry that you cannot talk to him directly about papers for his niece. Maybe it would be possible to contact him directly. She is an energetic and strong woman, a physician – she would manage on her own very well. My dear Joe, in February I wrote a letter to you regarding Mrs. Mindla Gruenwald and I fear that you have not received this letter. So listen, this woman is Anka's mother and she came to me, she cried and begged to write to [text missing] who lives [text missing] so she could help somehow. Before the war her sister was very helpful, and now, when she is in such terrible conditions, is starving, really, they do not help her. Throughout the war they sent just one food package. She asks, so please take care of this as soon as possible, so she could get at least three packages via the "Pave" offices. Just like the ones we are getting, because these had a good content, with good fat, so remember that Mindla Gruenwald, 9 Nowolipie Street, apt. 38 and her sister's address is: Bina or Harry Appelman 1454-51<sup>st</sup> Street in Brooklyn. Write if you have seen these people and will they help her? She comes here all the time to find out if you wrote anything about it. My dears, as you can see nothing is happening with our emigration. Hamburg-America Lines gave us such hope that we believed that for Easter [Passover] we will be together, but unfortunately it was not possible at that time, but we will consider ourselves lucky if we will ever be able to join you. Ruta received an answer from the consulate, which she sent to Leon. The answer reads: if Hamburg-America Lines will determine the route which she can take and if her husband will buy a ship-card in America, then she will get a visa and will go. Ruta expected an answer from Leon, she hoped for a telegram from Leon that he arranged all and that she can go. Just the opposite happened – there was no answer from Leon and he stopped writing all together. Office of Hamburg-America Lines has no answer as well. We received an answer from the Consulate, which I included in my letter to Uncle Sam. We were surprised to find out that our papers are outdated and they asked for renewal and sending new documents. In conclusion – we see that there is no way that we could go

now, but you remember to make sure that our papers and Zygmunt's should not get outdated, because if a day will come and we will be able to go, we should have good papers. Tola, dear, your letters bring us a lot of heartache, we see how much you suffer because of us. You are a good sister and daughter, but your suffering is not helping us, it does not fill our stomachs and you hurt yourself and weaken your nerves. No one can read your letters aloud without the throat closing up with tears. And I am not talking only about family. Zygmunt always covers his eyes not to see the tears. So, please, my dear, take care of yourself. Write a lot about yourself, about Danula. Everybody writes that she is an exceptional child and sweet beyond imagination. It's too bad that we cannot see her. What new with Leon? We do not understand why he is not writing to you or to Rita. She is very upset by this. Leon has no reason to complain, Rita writes often to him and lately she received an answer from Norddeutscher Lloyd that Leon does not live at your address. Leon, I think that you will read this letter, so I want to tell you that you are not behaving properly. Do not be angry with me for telling you that, but who knows better than me the current conditions your wife is in. You, Thank God, make a living and you should send food package via "Pave" for her. Besides, Leon, we have no idea what are you doing. Until recently you were the one who wrote the most, and now we get letters from everybody and nothing from you. Write to me about Alice and tell me if she already has her own apartment, how did she arrange all, and give me her address. I'd like to write to her and congratulate them. Apart from all this, my dear Tola, what am I going to tell you about myself – nothing good. I am not getting any treatments, because I cannot afford it. I am sure you received the photographs of Mama, Rita and Jureczek. I did not go to the photographer, because at that time I looked like I have consumption. Nowadays I look more like a human being, but it is quite far from my old self. Lately I have been through a lot. Now I can tell you about it because it is almost over. Jureczek broke a leg, the same leg that he broke before, but this time he broke his thigh. It was a compound fracture and he was put in cast up to his hip. The poor boy is in bed for 5 weeks, but in a week they will take it off. The examination showed that he has brittle bones, in other case he would never break his leg at this location. This is a reason that he has a tendency to break his bones. My conditions are very difficult now and with the need to get medical care for my child after the accident, it is even worse. Apart from this he is a big boy, studies well at home and is very smart. He always talks about you, about Danula and about Alice. Our parents changed a lot. They lost a lot of weight. Father actually is half of himself. Mama is different in all respects, she is not as quick as she used to and she cannot do anything, because of arthritis. She inherited two illnesses from her parents: from her father the bad hearing and from her mother: arthritis. The dump conditions caused by the war contribute to worsening of the arthritis. We had no heat during the winter and the windows were boarded. We replaced the glass in the windows only in the summer. And now, Joe, I will give you all the information about your family. So, everybody, starting from Dawid and ending with Ignac, is healthy. Recently they got a letter from Gutek, Dawid's son, that Artek cannot write, but he is managing. Dawid's children are doing very well. All the ones that are in Warsaw are idle. In this whole misery this is the worst evil, that if there is nothing to do the couples quarrel, and that the way it is in every home. In your old apartment there are many people and each one has a temperament. Adam is the worse. My dear Joe, do not be angry with me that I write all that, but I assure you that I am writing only a fraction of what I could write. Ignac manages better than most. Heniek and Dora, one could say, just vegetate. Joe, I know that sending the food packages for your relatives is a tremendous effort, so do not do it. It would make sense if you could send to everybody, but this way there is only jealousy

between them and do not share the food. Zygmunt, who was taken advantage of and who lives with them, never even saw the parcels. Be well, I wish you a lot of happiness and success in life. Kisses to you all, but to my beautiful Danula especially. As you can see the address is the same. Regards for you, Leon and for Alice with her husband. Bela.

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## DOC 66

\*\* Note: Document marked as undated, but followed April 29, 1941 letter from Bela to J. Stein in translation list and the translator notes it was written in the same handwriting as the March 13, 1941 request for immigration written on the same sheet.

Letter to S. Haber in NY  
From Bela and from Szlifersztein – not dated

My son broke a leg and is in cast and in bed already four weeks and has to stay another two weeks. I go through a lot because of this accident, but it is almost behind us. We live in our apartment as before so our address is the same. I am sending my best regards to Auntie, Uncle and Mila, Yours Bela

You honorable Mr. Habergut,  
I take active part in the correspondence with the USA and I am taking advantage of this occasion to send you and your family my regards. In addition I would like to thank you for all your efforts on my part to enable my immigration. At this point it looks quite unattainable, but might be useful in a right moment. We should only live that long. Some time ago you asked if it is possible to send a package via the offices of Schenker. As of now it is absolutely impossible. But I remember your question and if there will be any changes in the situation I will do what needs to be done. Please accept my feelings of respect and my regards. Please convey the same to my brother and all the relatives.  
Yours, Szlifersztein

[Copied in the same handwriting]

Copy:

Berlin, March 13, 1941

American Embassy

American Consulate General in response to your letter from December 13, 1940 communicates that your request can be positively addressed, when the proper documentation will arrive. The documents, which we presently have, are outdated. The validity of all documentation is only one year. At the present time there are new, stricter immigration rules. In case you will be called to present yourself to our local office, upon receiving new documents, your request will be addressed on condition that you will have a possibility of receiving a ship ticket and an exit permit from the German authorities.

H. Francis Cunningham, Jr.

Deputy US Consul

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## DOC 67

Letter and envelope sent by Zofia Napieralska; 12 Poznanska Street, apt. 16; Warsaw  
To: Joe Stein in NY

Written by Bela

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1941

My dears,

I am sure that you received my letters in which I described everything. Since then much has changed. We had a great tragedy, because our father was very sick and the situation was so grave that a catastrophe could come any moment. In order not to write too much, I will tell you, Jozek, that father had the same illness as your brother, Adam, last year. He described to you exactly what was it about, so you know more or less. Father's illness was serious because of his advanced age. I am writing about today, because as of today father is back at home, with us. After such serious illness you can imagine what is our situation – we are starving. Lately we have not received any food parcels. The last one arrived at the beginning of April, via Portugal and in it was coffee, tea and cocoa. These are small packages, each about 400 grams, but it is good enough, because we can exchange it for essential produce. The best are the packages of 5 kilograms, which you sent us via “Pave” offices. We wrote about it to uncle Sam and we do not know if he was kind enough to help us. Till then we were able to save a little but now, in need to save father, we sold all we had and we have nothing. Good packages were sent via Yugoslavia as well by the office of “Zronko Sons” and via “Macys’s we have not received any packages. Go to uncle Sam and let him read this letter and try to see Harry, so they can help us as soon as possible. I can just tell you that if not for Hala, we would starve. I await your answer. Be well and best wishes, Bela

Everybody sends their love. As you can see our address is the same, so write to the old address. [*Obviously this letter was sent from outside the ghetto and she expects the answer through the same person – maybe a previous neighbor, a Polish woman.*]

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## DOC 68

Postcard from Adam Szlifersztejn, Warsaw, 57 Leszno Street (with envelope)  
To Joe Stein in NY

To: Joe Stein in NY

May 27, 1941 – Warsaw

Dear Jozek,

We received your letter from May 3, which we read with great pleasure. I am happy that you are all healthy and that my beloved Alusia is engaged. May God grant her lots of happiness and health. We are all healthy. Regarding the consul in Berlin, Zygmunt will write an application for me this week and will ask if our papers arrived already. I am



surprised that you are not getting our letters. Every week I send you a letter and to Samuel. Long letters. As of now we have not received food packages. We received an announcement from an expeditor from Estonia, that he is sending a package for us. We wish that we could be already together. Give my regards to my Haim and from Mother as well. We all ask him to do what is in his power to take us out of here at any price. I am sending my best to you, Tola and Ala and her fiancée. Why isn't Dola writing?  
Your Mother.

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## DOC 69

Letter written by "Dussa" (?) and mother  
on June 27, 1941 in the Warsaw ghetto  
To: Joe Stein in NY

My dear beloved Jozek,  
I received your letter from the 26<sup>th</sup>, over which I cried, but I was happy to get such a long and comprehensive letter. Dawidek, Heniek, Edek and Zygmunt read your letter as well. Most important you already know that Artek is fine and he writes to Dawid's children, but not to us. They send him parcels, because he is for sure in difficult conditions. He asked through Dawid's children that Zygmunt should send him packages too, but it is not possible. It is possible to send only from Russia and the US. I will find out as well as his address and the address of Dawid's children, and maybe you will be able to do something. Dawidek is a dear fellow. He wrote to his children that they shouldn't send packages to him but to send double packages to Artek. He doesn't want to burden his children, even though they are in good conditions. Ludwis works as a teacher, he is not in the same town as Halinka. Halinka works in a hospital; her husband makes a living as well. They sent a beautiful photograph of all three of them. I told Rosi, that she should send you a photo of her child. They live like always and somehow manage. The package was very important to him. Now there will be no packages and no letters. Most important is that Artek is alive. On May 18<sup>th</sup> the whole family gathered on the sad occasion of second anniversary of our mother's death. As I told you before, nothing was done. But during the Kaddish, when we got to Artek's name, knowing that he is alive, my heart rejoiced. Otherwise, my despair would know no end. I will be absolutely honest with you, despite the fact that I do not like to write about sad things. To be so open I could only with you and Artek, nobody else. With Rita, whom I grew to like a lot, I will talk later. So, my dears, during the whole winter I pushed Heniek to erect a gravestone for mother, and I must admit that I am very hurt that nothing was done. It's not that we could not afford it, just lack of feeling for obligation. Most painful was the answer of Eda – she said – after the war. You probably think that we are a family that keeps together – well, it's not like this. I do not talk to Adam since December; with Eda and Rafal I don't talk since last year's Pesach. If one needed a loaf of bread from the other – better not to think about it. Now, going back to the issue of the stone and Heniek. I was sure that he is doing something about it and I always said that I am ready to give my share. After the ceremony at the cemetery I couldn't keep quiet anymore, because even the base wasn't done – so I said that it is a great shame, that Mother insured herself with: "Chesed Ve'emes" (funeral home) not to be a burden for us, and if not for the war – the gravestone would be in place. Our mother did not die as a beggar; she left earrings,

wedding ring, a ring, a fur coat, beautiful, new tablecloth etc. etc. I don't expect that we should pay for the expenses, I think that we should use the valuables she left to make sure that she is buried properly. That's what I said. Adam attacked me, like a crazy horse, because he took the earrings. Imagine – two years passed and I never talked about the things left by mother, but I hoped that my own sister would give me one earring as a memento. Most of the family thought that I am right and "lady Eda" gave me one earring, the worse one, the one that had five false stones. I said that everyone should appraise the earrings, but the costs of the stone and everything connected with it was about 350 zloty and the earrings are about 250 zloty. I don't know how it will all end. Heniek paid for it all and he has one earring, Ignac has one earring and I am demanding priority as a daughter. Eda kept all the best things. Well, we will see if the gravestone will be done. I am sure that you are asking how come Eda has the earrings. When Mother was sick, she sold her a tablecloth and gave her a pawn ticket. Eda kept it so long that finally the earrings stayed with her. She gave them to Uncle Icie, when he was marrying his daughter for 50 zloty. I told her – fine, you have the earrings, but I want the worse one for me as a memento, then she left for out of town and the war started. Mother was so stupid to give it to her, and Eda didn't know that Mother told me about it. Eda told Bella that Artek took one earring with him, but after the scandal at the cemetery she found it. There were so many valuable things like silk tablecloths and other things that maybe for you in America it doesn't matter, but for me, it is as if I was not a daughter. After Mother died, five days later I had to go to Jozefow, because it was May 15<sup>th</sup>, and then Eda, Rozia and Halinka took it all. As if I and my daughter do not exist. Artek took the ring and took it with him. You remember that I had two fur coats, I kept them in storage and they burned and I have nothing to wear when I returned in October to Warsaw. I lived in your old apartment so I think that I had the right to wear Mother's old fur coat. I didn't want to just take it and Zygmunt promised to give it to me. The Mittelbachs thought that I am right. When Ignac came back from Gdynia, he took the coat and gave it to Josek. May God punish me if I said a word. All the rest of the things are in Ignac's apartment and I am not even asking about it. The wonderful silk comforter, which Mother made for Artek now is with Genia.

I have five promissory notes each for 100 zloty, which were for Artek's journey to England and I could not cash them. I am not very lucky. Now I just want to see you and Artek. I conveyed the regards to uncle Icie. He lives close to me, on Pawia Street and he changed a lot. They come by often, they sell bread and I have a warm place in my heart for him because of Mother. He is a good man. In the apartment, which I inherited, I have many people whom I have to help out. I wish I had better luck, but you know that I do not complain, because I have my Joziek (husband) who loves me and takes care of me. I am happy to be a housewife – I do everything by myself, so it is a lot of work. Jozio earns a little and we dream about going to you. Adam lives with Ignac in your old apartment. It would be better if everyone lived on their own. I know that Adam received two parcels, he does nothing, just sells things. In the next letter I will tell you why I don't talk to him. I know that Ignac got one parcel – no one gives him anything. I like him. His son is my godson and I bought him a baby carriage for 200 zloty. It is used, because a new one would cost 700 zloty. It was an occasion to buy it. It was a huge expense for me. I hoped to have others participate in this, but nobody wanted to help out. But a son is not born every day and I gave him other small items. The child is sweet and I played with him today. Irka's son is sweet and fat too. Eda as usual lives well, looks well, but you will not find out anything from them. They always complain. He earns on the side not too bad. Their son Ludwis – a nice, intelligent guy, graduated studies as an elektro-

technician. He teaches Jurek, Bela's son. Adam looks not so good and Ignac lost a lot of weight. Nothing good is happening with Zygmunt either. He spends his days with the Mittelbachs. I gave your regards to Rawiecki. He is angry that you don't write to him. Many kisses to you all, Your Dussa.

Jozio, a Frysz family which lives with me – husband, wife and three children and her mother – Odoner. They have a family: Morris Odoner; 1360 Ogden Ave.; Bronx, NY. Find out if they are alive and tell them that their family is asking about them.

Dawidek didn't get your package. When I went with Bela and Rita to get packages I got envious – what wonderful things. They got 2 parcels and later another and tomorrow another one. Give my best regards to Mr. Leon and thank him from me for writing to Rita. She is in a better mood now. Many kisses from Dussa (?)[Dora?]

***In the same envelope:***

My dearest children,

It's been a long time since I had a letter from you. What's new and how is the health. I got a letter from Alusia, sent March 12<sup>th</sup> and I was happy that she is happy. May God grant me to have Nachos from you all. Thank you to Max for his nice words and I wish them lots of good luck in their new life. It is just too bad that we are not there with you and that we cannot see it all with our own eyes. My beloved Tolka and Jozek – what's new with you, how is the health? How is my beloved Laleczka (doll) I received a letter from Jozek in which he writes that he opened his own store. May it succeed. May I live long enough to be with you and to see it all – may this be God's will. How is my dear Leonek? How come he writes so little? I get very few letters and even didn't get a package, only for Pesach I got one: tea, coffee, cocoa from Portugal – that's all. We are in great material difficulties. How is Samuel Haim – he is trying very hard to help us. I am asking to send me 5 packages via the acquaintance of Mrs. Hala and send it express. How is Seymon? I would write to him but I do not have his address. I got letters from Dola of Tofka – I thank them very much. Tell them to write more often. My dear Leonek – why don't you write more often? Even to your own wife you are not writing. Be well, your loving Mother – write to me.

My dears,

It's been a long time since we got a letter from you. We don't know what is going on with you. Write my dear Tola, how is the business, how was Alusia's wedding. I can't write more now, because Rita is waiting to take the letter. Tomorrow I will write a long one. Kisses for everyone, your Bela

Write to the old address.

An old letter, never sent – you will have something to read.

My Dear ones, Tola and Jozek,

On 24<sup>th</sup> of March I sent a letter and today it is May 5, 1941 and not waiting for your response I am writing to share with you a piece of good news in our sad lives. I'd like to see your faces, when you hear that Artek is alive and well. A letter arrived to Dawid, from his son Ludwik, that he received 2 letters from Artek in which he asks to let us know that he is healthy. Ludwik and Halinka are sending him packages and they do everything they can. A photo of Halinka and her husband arrived as well as of Ludwik – they look well and they are doing OK. Dawid is lucky that his children are not here, I am

happy to get the good news and I manage OK. They received 1 package from them. On May 11<sup>th</sup> we have the anniversary of Mother's death. Sometimes I see Tola's family and I am very taken with Rita's trouble. I just came back from there and I am all upset with her crying that Mr. Leon is not writing. It's been 2 months that she received a letter from him. She received a letter from you, from Ala today and from Habergruenitz, But from him nothing. She is crazy with worry. Before when he wrote it kept her spirits up and gave her the strength to go on living. How to explain it and what does it mean? He even forgot her birthday. Please yell at him in my name. At the same time give him a hug and tell him to write to us, because we like Rita very much [*missing text*] What's new with you? We are all healthy. Genia and Ignac have a very sweet boy. He was one year old on April 20. We met for tea. I gave him two toys made by Ala. My Ala became 18 years old on April 27. She is a good girl. We often talk about Danusia. Whatever Ala sews she wants to send it to Danusia.

Tola, how is your health, did you get used to new conditions? I am sure that you have some help from Dana. Many kisses to you Tola and Jozek and Dana.

PS I remember when your ship started on its way; I will never forget it. Regards to Mr. Leon, Your loving Dora

My dearest,

I am taking advantage and I am adding a few words on this small piece of paper, which my wife left for me. Dear Jozek, I am making efforts so our seeing each other can happen, and I hope to be successful. Best wishes for the young couple, and even though I do not know the groom I hope to meet him in person. Jona.

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## DOC 70

July 1941 (arrived in NY 7/25/41)

My dears,

We received your letters from July 17, for which we thank you very much. Thank God you are all healthy and may we always get good news from you. We are, Thank God, healthy too. Sometimes the health is not so good, but we hope that this will pass and all will be fine. We want, at all costs, to survive and maybe God will grant us that we will stay healthy.

My dears, I am sure you already received the acknowledgement for the five packages sent by cousin Harry and now I have a request: go to our cousin Pauline, who lives with Mr. Greenfeld on 200 Ross Str. Brooklyn, and ask her to send us 5 food packages. The last five did not do as any good, because I had to give away half of a package to Mrs. Rozenblum, half to Adam and half to Rita. The next packages traveled a long time and came spoiled. Paulina should send it right away and the most important that they should contain lots of fats. I am surprised not to get anything from my Alusia and Max. My dear ones, when we get your letters it is like a big holiday and it helps us to have more positive attitude towards life. Best regards and kisses. Your father will answer soon. Give my regards to uncle Sam and aunt Lola as well as Haim and Mila and to the whole family.

My dear Tola and Jozek.

What's with you, how come you are not writing? We are healthy. May God grant me that I should have good news from you. Rita received a letter from Leonek, which was written on July 7<sup>th</sup>. How come Dola and Ala are not writing? Dola's mother-in-law received a letter, which I read. Be well, I kiss you very much, your Mother.

My dear Leonek,

We received your letter for which I thank you from the bottom of my heart. How is your health and how do you look? We are all healthy, which I wish for you too. Is Ala visiting you? How is she and how does she look? Send us your photographs. Send us packages. It's been three months since we got anything. Be well, I kiss you very much, Your Mother.

I am sending best wishes for everybody.

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## DOC 71

Letter to Joe Stein in NY from Adam and Ira in Warsaw (no envelope)

Warsaw, July 6, 1941

My dear Jozek,

Thank you for your letter from June 3. I will try to answer all your questions. First of all I want to let you know that we got news about Artek via Ludwik Dawid. He cannot write to us directly. He is very far away and works very hard. Ludwik writes that he sends him packages and that he is not in harms way. He writes that we will meet again. We need to be patient. Regarding food packages, I received it only twice, minimal quantities and inferior quality. I do not understand, because Tola's parents get very good packages. Dawid claims that he received nothing.

My dear Jozek, we were always very honest with each other, so in view of this, and after long deliberations, I decided to tell you all about myself. Up till now, I didn't do it as I wanted to spare you the worry, but the circumstances are forcing me and even Tola's father told me to do it. So, as I wrote you before, in the beginning I earned well and the rest of the family as well. The difference between us is that the family has reserves and I have nothing due to Marus' terrible illness and the boarding house, and I am left without any means of support and I have nothing to sell. In addition these experiences caused a heart illness and I have to seek treatment. You wrote in your letter that there is no other family that is so close as ours is. Unfortunately I have to state that maybe that's the way it was in the past. People are terribly selfish and think only about themselves. It hurts me, because you know that I never belonged to such category. Even those with whom one lives under the same roof pretend that they see nothing. My Jozio, your father-in-law notified me that he didn't get any packages through the "Pave" offices, and when he will receive it he will act according to your instructions. Of course we will not benefit from it in any substantial way, as our needs, in the circumstances we are in, are great. Anyway I am grateful for your caring. My Jozio, I do not want to worry you, but the situation is so bad that I am trying for a few weeks now to become eligible to get meals at a soup kitchen. I know very well that you are not rich, but you, Thank God, have completely different possibilities, so I am asking you, if you want to make it a little easier for me in my extreme situation, to send me many (which means at least 2-3 full packages) food

packages through the offices of "Pave." I assure you that if it were not for my obligations towards Irka and Marus, I would never write about it to you. I want to emphasize that I know that this will be a burden for you, but you will manage on your territory and maybe you can pay for the packages in installments. I will be very grateful if you could do it immediately, if possible, even by a cable. Let me know directly. I hope, my dear Jozio, that you will not hold this request against me. You should know, that if God forbid, the situation was reversed, I would do everything for you. Hurry, my dear, with arranging this extremely important issue for me, since the situation is more precarious than you can imagine. I am impatiently awaiting. Many kisses to Tola and Danusia and you, Adam

My dear Tolek, [*diminutive for Tola*]

Thank you for good words. We need them more than you can imagine. To tell you about our very difficult and sad life I could only personally. Maybe, if I am to believe your words of encouragement, we will indeed see each other. Fate plays tricks. Please try, Tolek, to fulfill Adam's appeal as soon as possible. I believe that you will do everything possible. Adam described extensively his situation. Your godson, Marus, is a big boy. He is very intelligent and handsome at the same time. He is much taller than Jurek. They play together. Marus graduated 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with excellent results. My dears, if you want to help us, hurry up. You can read between the lines what our situation is. Be happy and well and enjoy your beautiful daughter. Kiss her for me. Does she remember me? Jozek, thank you for your warm addition to the letter. We miss you a lot, all of you. Many kisses, your Ira. [*probably diminutive for Irena*]

By miracle we received your photograph, it almost fell out. Tolek, your "tens" [*ten dollar bills*] did not survive. Send more, but hurry.

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## DOC 72

Letter written to Joe Stein in NY by Bela and Zygmunt Szlifersztejn; 57/21 Leszno Street, Warsaw ghetto; Dated: July 19, 1941

My dearest,

We received your letter, dear Tola, which you wrote on June 11 and we are quite surprised that Jozek didn't add even one sentence. In the meantime I wrote a few letters to you and I am sorry you didn't get them. My dear Tola, I have so much to tell you, but I have to hurry because Zygmunt is waiting, so I will write only about most important issues. You wrote in a few letters that you are sending 5 additional packages, which makes us very happy. The packages arrived, Harry's brother told us, but we have not received them yet, and when will we get them, we do not know. Tola, my dear, you always sent us packages of 5 kg. and now it appears that one of them is half the size, which means it is 2.5 kilo, so I want to let you know, because if you paid for the full size packages and the company sent four the big size and one small, so you could demand half the money back. Leon asks in his letter that we should give half of a good package to Rita, because he wants her to improve. Please believe me that we all eat what she eats, and when the lean weeks arrive, we all have the same rations, but I understand that he wants better things for his wife. Jozek, you asked that half of one package, which contained the fat and sardines, be divided between your three brothers. Your intentions are good, but your division is not good. Ignac should not get a third, because for him it is meaningless. He has fat reserves from before the war, in hermetically closed jars. So

each time when you send him packages, it was not necessary, but we did not want to tell you, because we thought that you will send each one of us packages equally or you will ask who needs it most. Adam is in bad shape and there is a lot to tell you about it. Dawid is in very bad shape and Zygmunt as well. He already sells things that he wears, just to survive, but he didn't want to worry you, but when you already sent packages, you should have mention him too. Jozek, do not hold it against me that I am writing this way, I could have written much more. Tomorrow I will write a long letter. Kisses and hugs from Bela.

Rita sends a photo of herself for Leon  
I am sending my best wishes, Your Mother

July 19, 1941

My Dear Jozek,

In one of your letters you are asking how come I almost never write to you. This is only partially true, because I did write, but maybe the letters were lost on their way. There is a reason why I am not writing. I didn't want to worry you. I am writing with some humor as I used to do a year ago, but I can't do it anymore. We live by sheer stubbornness and a will to survive. Will it end in success? This is the big question. Regarding immigration – we all calmed down and we got used to the idea that it is not going to work out. Regarding our health – we are still OK, but to keep it up we need to put something in our mouths. My dear Jozek, I have something to tell you. I have to emphasize that I have no ill feelings towards you, none what so ever. I just want to know what criteria did you use helping Adam, Dawid and Ignac and bypassing me? By the way – the packages as of now did not arrive yet. I thought about it for a long time and I cannot solve this puzzle. Why do I deserve less help or at least some help? Maybe as far as you are concerned you think that I do not need any help. If so, I wonder who informed you about it? I was surprised to notice that you sent a parcel with fat and sausages to Ignac and I think to Dawid as well. In addition you sent him tea and coffee and I was totally shocked to learn that you ordered to give them half the package and you omitted me all together. Even taking into consideration that somebody misinformed you about my situation, you should have thought that it might be a mistaken information and that this omission might hurt me. It is painful to be omitted. I write these words unwillingly, but I need to explain to you what is going on. I want to explain rationally and clearly. Two weeks ago we received your letter with a photo. We were very pleased to see how well you look. I hope you will continue to be well, we all wish that for you. From all the packages, which you informed the parents that they are on the way, they received only 300 grams of coffee. You should check how come the rest is not delivered. The sausage, fat and sugar could be of great use for us. We are sending our best regards and we wish you to have good news about us. Please do not exclude anybody. Best regards in the name of dear our parents, Bela, Rita and Jureczek. Jozio, your letters to me you can address to Bela. Hugs from Your Zygmunt.

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**DOC 73**

Letter to Joe Stein in NY from Adam Szlifersztein; 57 Leszno Street, Warsaw ghetto  
Dated: August 27, 1941

My dear Jozio,

Mr. W. came to visit me and showed me a letter, which he received from your friend, Henryk. I am glad that you are all healthy. Mr. W. told me that 2 packages, each 2 kg. were sent for me at his address. Is it true or is he misleading me? He complains a lot and getting the packages from him will not be an easy thing. He was surprised that I did not receive any notification from Henryk, which would be the right thing to do. Even in the event that I will be able to get the packages out of his hands it will last, even for such a small family as mine, not longer then 3-4 weeks. Jozek, please forgive me for being obnoxious but I already described to you my situation and I am asking you to make sure that I get a few full packages, the same as sent via the Pave company. Even this company does not deliver on time, but if you could go and talk to the manager of this company maybe he will write where needed so I can get the packages regularly. I am sure that there are different companies, and maybe more reliable. This is most important – reliable and fast. I suppose that you received my letter from July 8<sup>th</sup> and I am sure you have done a lot since then. If so, please send me a telegram. I believe in fate and only fate caused that the uncles of Tola arrived in Warsaw and took you with them. Be happy that you are with Tola's family. Here all are healthy, only I have heart problems and I have to be under medical care. We dream that we should see you ever again in the future and have a real heart to heart. Please kiss Tola and Danusia from me and Irka.

Selma just asks that I should ask you to send via Portugal some cotton things for Robert. Supposedly her friend got it this way. Jozek, we thank you whole heartedly for all you have done for us till now and I am asking you not to forget even for a moment of my request, because this is indeed an issue of our survival. Maybe I will be able to make it up to you in better conditions. Thank you in advance and awaiting impatiently, I kiss you, Adam.

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## DOC 74

Letter to J. Stein in Brooklyn, NY  
Warsaw October 10, 1941

My dear Leon,

We received your letter written on September 7, and Thank God you are all healthy, and may God grant me getting good news from all of you. May we get to the time when we see each other again but who knows when this can happen. Only God knows. I hurry to answer you, my dear Leon and Rita will write when she will have time. My dear children, I am sure you got my letter in which I wrote about our health, but to be healthy, we are far from it. I have sciatic nerve inflammation, I cannot walk at all and of course to work I would like, maybe God willing, we will survive and we'll be able to meet again – to do that we need food packages, so I ask you to go to my cousin Paulina, who lives now with the Greenfeld family, 200 Ross Str. Brooklyn, so she should send me a few food packages, just like you sent lately. These were good, most important that they should contain fat and tea, because I make no money, and you need to know, once and for all, that all of our sustenance is based on your packages. We live in very bad conditions. You write that you cannot send packages and Mrs. Rozenblum received three packages only last week from uncle Sam, via Portugal. So you should not wait for our letters, because one cannot trust the post office to deliver mail regularly, only send it as fast as



you can and as much as you can, so we will be able to survive. Best regards to Tola, Jozek and Danusia. It's been a long time since I heard from Alusia and Alex – tell them to write, because the letters are like a balsam for the soul. Nothing interesting apart from this. Be well, many kisses from your loving Father.

Give my regards to Uncle Sam and Aunt Lola to Haim and Milusia and to the whole family. Why is it that aunt Tofka Rubin doesn't write to us at all, and tell aunt Dola and Abram to write to us – we ask them to do it. Since Bela is supposed to marry Zygmunt, God willing, you will arrange papers for us too. Remember to take care of this together. The last five packages we received.

Best regards to everybody, Jurek Tyrmund  
Regards and kisses for Danusia, Jurek [written by a child]

My dear children,  
Why do you write so little. How is your health, how is Danusia. Send us packages, because we are in a very bad way. We already ate the last 5 packages and now we have nothing to eat, we only wait for your packages. Be well. Many kisses, Mother.

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## DOC 75

Letter to J. Stein in Brooklyn  
Warsaw, October 18, 1941

My dears,  
I am sure you received my letter, where I notified you that we are all healthy, Thank God, and that you are all healthy. We received a letter from dear Leon, with his photograph. You look well. I am surprised that you didn't join everybody when they left for 10 days. Don't you have time off? You cannot work the whole year without a rest, you cannot do it. And now, my dears, I am sure you already know that we received five food packages, which you sent and that Mrs. Rozenblum got it too. She confirmed it immediately and you never got it – the letter never arrived. And as you well know, out of the five packages only three and a half were for us. One package I gave to Mrs. Rozenblum. Half a package she received from Adam and I gave another half to Leon's wife. At the present conditions, when I cannot earn anything such a three and a half packages will not last long. Dear Leon, you wrote that you sent a package, so where is it? We didn't get it. In view of all that I am asking that you should go to my cousin Paulina, who lives with Greenfield on 200 Ross Street in Brooklyn and ask her that she should send me five food packages and especially lots of fat and she should do it fast, because fat is needed for the coming winter, it is needed for every meal. Dear Tola and Jozek, why did you stop writing to us. We get so few letters from you. The same is true for my dear Alusia and Maks – they write so little. We are eager to find out what is Maks doing, how come he moved to Brooklyn, does he have his own business or does he work for somebody? Please try to send us food packages as soon as possible, so we could survive. Packages are arriving from Lisbon. Your packages are our only rescue for us. Be well, regards and kisses, Father.

My dear children,

Thank you for your lovely and dear letter, which I received. I am very pleased that you are all healthy. May God grant us that we should see each other as soon as possible. Why is Ala writing so little? Why Dola and Abram do not write. You are sending packages to us. We are not doing well without them. Please write to us often and as much as you can, because this is the only pleasure we have. Be well, kisses to you all, your loving Mother.  
Regards to everybody. Make sure to send us packages.

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## DOC 76

Warsaw, October 21, 1941

Via Lisbon From D. H(R)odjanikoff 11 Dzielna Street #8, Warsaw, Germany

My Dearest Jozio,

Your letter from the 5<sup>th</sup> of August I received and I thank you for it. There is nothing new but what I know I will share with you my dear. Dawidek and his family after the change were in desperation. I was very worried how they changed. Now we have news that they are together and healthy. Not directly from them. You have no idea what huge love and missing and longing of his to his son and her to her daughter. I love Dawidek very much. He was always quiet, subtle, delicate. He doesn't cry, doesn't complain despite the fact that he has it much worse than others but he doesn't complain. He manages somehow and dreams about seeing his children. He received a few hundred sewing pins from Mordka and he thanks very much. It was well used. He gave me the address: Leon Berkman Coh. Schiff, 101 Clinton Street, New York (City). The address of a cousin of Mr. Joffe, where Dawidek at the time wrote you about. If you wish, could you please via this address take care of it. And now my dear child if you explain to yourself that the reasons I do not speak with Adam, Eda and Rafal are (as the saying goes) idleness creates quarrel...so if you think that you're mistaken. The reason is not financial but of honor. We got this goody good Adam, this self-righteous and sure of himself too close to us. This type, it would be better if he lived farther away. When he moved closer he closed his door for us. You know that since childhood he likes to patronize others. These three, yes Jasieczka, she treated my sweet and beloved from the very beginning in such a way that I suffered. I didn't say anything. I pretended that I don't here and don't see and asked for the same form Jasia just so there will be peace. Be blind and deaf if you love me. I explain to him that Adam has a short fuse and my dear sister and Adam thought that he is so obtuse that he doesn't feel anything, taking everything in good spirit but he did it all for me. I will tell you a small thing, last year Jasio put on a fur coat and then he asks his sister in law Edzia how does she like it. So she congratulated him with these words..."Oh well, some people get rich during the war and some become paupers." Jozio, this is not to be described. From the moment of marriage bitter remarks until a bomb had to explode. I don't want to know them. They didn't care about my peace of mind and happiness that I finally have a pension and they see that I am making ends meet and great love for Jasia and how good he is for Ala and loves her and Musio. Maybe he is envious, devil only knows. I cannot explain it. I am ashamed to admit that for a whole year since Adam moved in after a week of his living with us he was always playing cards as during your times. Adam likes to interfere and not in a nice way. I wanting to pacify the storm got a slap in my face. Can you imagine this picture in Jasia's presence. Jozio,

if you would see how much I cried for this humiliation now they laugh at him. I did not return him with the same I just petted him. May I see you and your family as I am telling the truth. Adam! Whom did you strike, me and your home your closing for us he lived here for only a week and I excepted it with such composure because I was ashamed in front of you to say what I went through and how he sat for nine weeks in her pension and so close to me. And then a terrible illness of the child. I am unable to describe. Never mind the financial issues, this is not important but my moral and physical suffering. Your unable to imagine that I went crazy not like a sister but like a mother who has only one child where no one else could go I managed to get there. But sweet letters from him Irka I have as a memento. How will they pay me back I already got there revenge. Jozek some news are better than that. Your dear Adam got a position of an administrator of buildings so he has an occupation. Mr. Grinszpan since last year when he moved to our sector and he is doing very well. His sister-in-law lives with him. Ala is studying she lives separately on 16 Leszno. Irka looks very well. Adam lost a lot of weight. Ignac is a good man. They have a sweet son who lives with them. Now Ignac started to sell. They live very modestly even though he can afford more than Adam. Zygmunt is busy together with Rafal and as of now it works. Only Edek mooches off of me and Ignac. Dawidek got news of his daughter. He is a good man and is worthy of help. He doesn't feel so well, his old illness returned, something with his stomach and he has to have a diet and food. I know that their situation is difficult but I'm not asking for anything. Uncle Icie is in a very bad way. I help a little but it is a drop in the ocean. It's better to give than to take. Milrad is not doing well either and he is thinking about moving to the country. Flinkier I haven't seen him and what's with Rowickis I don't know. Tola my dear, I will tell you in a few words that your letter to yours there was such desperation as if God forbid from hunger. I have to correct you. I will start from the youngest, Jurek looks well gorgeous boy studies. After the breaking of his leg there is no signs of it and it is long forgotten. Grandmother loves him and there is no one else for her she is sacrificing for him. Bela looks the same as you have seen her the last time. God will strike me even if I exaggerate a little she is dressed well and looks well. Mother didn't change at all she only complains from time to time about her feet but she manages home well. There is even enough for a women who comes to help. Only father has changed but not for worse. He is proud that he lost a lot of weight and lost his beer belly and he is pleased that he looks twenty years younger. He feels very well and they eat very well. They have a well stocked pantry. May God cause that it will be so till the end. Father is bored because he has nothing to do. A woman always has something to do. Zygmunt is always there. Rita lately lost weight but she is a good looking woman and she feels well. Only from time to time she cries because she would want to be with Leon together. She's had it. Her father-in-law bugs her a little he became strange from idleness. He wants her always to stay at home. Her nerves don't allow her to do that. Me too, I can't sit at home and every day we are together. Lola Szenberg has a coffee house so often we sit there. I suspect that the old man is infatuated with her that's why he bugs her. Kisses for you Tola, Jozio and sweet Dana and from our aunt to Mr. Lerner. Find out about M. Odoner, 1660 Andrews Ave., Bronx, New York City is he there. Adam got your letter but I didn't read it.

My dear Jusek and siblings,

By chance there is an occasion that I can write to you a few words about myself  
Apparently others wrote about me but we didn't have direct contact. Why? I really don't

know! Maybe from now on it will start and you will want to write to me directly a few words how and what is going on with you. How is your family and what do you think about us. I am very lonely and I don't understand why they don't share the news with me about you. Most important I am healthy and I am trying to survive at the next opportunity I will write you about me I wait for news.

Best Wishes and regards to your little wifey and darling daughter as well as Leon

Yours,

Edek

Leszno 56 #28

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## DOC 77

Letter to J. Stein

Warsaw October 25, 1941

My beloved, my treasure,

Your wonderful letter arrived, for which I thank you very much. The letter was written on July 18 and on the envelope there was a date July 22. Imagine, my dearest, my happiness when I saw your beloved face, I mean your photograph. My beloved Leos, you look, kain a'hore, like a doughnut. You look beautiful. I was so happy when I saw you on a photograph. This is a first photograph since two years. I am showing your picture to everyone. Everybody says that you look good and they envy you and they say that you are a lucky man. My dearest Leos, you know, I myself envy you, because I myself am miserable and kicked around, because I am without you. My dearest, if you knew how much I suffer, you would feel pity for me. You remember and you know that I do not like people pitying me. Believe me my dearest, if it weren't for you I would finish myself off a long time ago. Life itself is not dear anymore. The thing that holds me is that I love you more than life itself and I believe, my darling, that you love me. Leos, this separation is too long. My God, how many years and where from to take strength? My dearest Leos, in every letter you try to comfort me, you tell me that we will be happy together, but when will this happiness come? Who knows if I will be alive till then? Believe me my dearest Leos, I am so resigned to my fate, that I cannot express it. My dearest husband, God will reward you for comforting me. Your letters encourage me, this and Dora's friendship. She likes me very much and we get along very well. We see each other every day and go for a walk or play cards. Sometimes she takes me to a coffeehouse. My dearest Leos, please write a few words to her. She reads all your letters, we constantly talk about you. How is your dear health? My dearest Leos, I have a big request, if it is only possible, please send me a package, the same kind as you sent me in May. I am ending now, because Bela wants to add a few words. Be well and happy. I kiss you, your loving forever wife Rita. Best regards for the whole family.

Dear Leonek,

We received the letter you wrote to Rita and me. Why do you write so seldom? Is it possible that in these terrible times for us, you have forgotten us? In our previous letters we confirmed receipt of packages from Harry, did you get these letters? I am very sorry that Harry has unpleasantness from Uncle Sam. In your previous letter you wrote that you sent a food package using a different office, but we have received nothing. Father in

his last letter gave you the address of cousin Paulina, so that she will send us five packages, because the recent ones did not contain any fats, only dry goods. Just to be sure, I am giving you her address. She lives with Greenfield on 200 Ross Street in Brooklyn. Please go and visit her and make sure that she sends us packages. She wrote in her letter and she promised to send excellent packages. Do not wait, because we have not received packages from you for a long time. Kisses and regards for all, your loving Bela.

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## DOC 78

Letter to J. Stein  
Warsaw, November 23, 1941

My dears,

I just read your letter from 16<sup>th</sup> October and I cannot agree with your statement that I do not write to you. I agree that I do not write much, but the reason is the same as yours, dear Jozek – there is nothing to write about. What I mean is that I could write but I do not want to complain and I cannot say that things are good. There is nothing to be proud of, so it is better to keep quiet. At the same time this is not enough of an explanation, because a letter, even a short one is a form of saying hello, extending a hand, etc. I enjoy your letters a lot. I feel that you are doing well, Thank God, and I am glad that at least our small group succeeded and managed in time to settle well. Maybe this is fate that we should have a good representative to rescue the rest of us. We want to believe that things will be good in the future, that we will see each other and that we will have good times together. As long as we are alive we have to nurse this hope. This hope gives us comfort and in our present situation we need a lot of hope. As far as we all are concerned I will inform you in order: Dawid is, unfortunately, not well, Roza is well, they received a letter from their children, which made them happy. It is natural that they would like to see their children, to have them close to them, but when will this be possible, nobody knows. Edek is just like himself, but not the same anymore, he does not look well, has very little income. Heniek with family, Thank God, healthy. Anka complains about her health. Next is me: you heard about me that I am going to marry Bela. I found in her a good, honest and devoted soul. I believe that she will find in me a good friend. The family home became to a certain degree my “Heimat” (homeland) and I feel good here. I must admit that my previous “Heimat” on 7 Leszno Street was made unbearable to me. With pain I must tell you, my dears, that it came to a crisis between us, to such a degree that it is irreparable. It is mostly due to Adam and then Ignac, who has a good excuse that he is more stupid than bad. It is exactly the opposite with Adam. I would not write about it if not your question, Tola: “is there peace already?” Well, there is peace but not understanding. My bitterness is boundless, especially towards Adam, to such an extent that we cannot share a table or a room. Despite all that I assure you that I am not his enemy. I worry about their worries, I hurt when they hurt, but I do not want to have anything to do with them. It’s better this way, as it makes it possible to avoid further quarrels. I never liked Adam’s despotic nature and his self adoration for his wisdom and culture. Fate wanted that we were stuck under the same roof. No wonder that the explosion came. Enough of this. I just want to believe that he is not my enemy just like I am not his. He should be healthy together with his family and he should leave me alone. Unfortunately he is not very healthy, he has problems with his heart. Marus, Thank God,

is healthy and an intelligent boy, but he inherited his character from his Dad. May he be healthy. There are people and children that could be likable but only from a distance. Dora and her Jasiczek are very happy. He's managing well and loves his wife [why not?] I wrote a little about Ignac, but his wife is something else. O never in my life imagined something like that. Their little boy is delightful. Because of uneven temperature in the apartment they keep him permanently in their room and I do not see him for days. My morning play with this sweet boy was eliminated. About Artek, unfortunately I have no news, but I believe that he is doing well. My dear Jozek, could you maybe find out via their consulate about him? He used to be in Gorki region. Now about Rafal and their son. They are healthy. Rafal is my partner. Together with Mr. Mardchesi. Together they exploit my 'ingenious' idea and thank God we can make some money. If you want to know what kind of a wonderful idea it is, I will tell you. I invented very practical window shade and I'm getting a lot of orders. We are laughing at what can be profitable – shades. Let it be shades as long as we can survive. Unfortunately, this will end soon and we have to sweat it out to invent something new. I already calculated how much money I would make if I would do the same in your city. I would be the biggest millionaire. Now about your dear parents with appendages, my dear Tola. Your father looks somewhat worse as well as your mother who complains about arthritis, but basically thank God they are healthy. My Bela looks quite bad which worries me a lot. She would need a good rest at least six weeks in a good resort, then she would get better but this at present is just a dream. We have to persevere and I believe that I will get her to be better. I wish that it should happen as soon as possible. Jureczek grew up to be a beautiful boy and smart as well, its difficult to describe. He is a wise and observant boy way above his level. He has an adult friend in me. His best time is when he can play with me. About my boys I can let you know that my boys are quite fine boys. They are handsome and big and it's a pleasure to look at them My workshop is in the parents apartment, so they come to visit me upstairs, because they can find me only there. It is quite clear that they suffer because of our separation but I believe that they take it well as young men should. A week ago on the 18<sup>th</sup> we celebrated their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. May they grow to be healthy and good people. I believe that this will happen because their character makes them good boys. Now about Rita, who dreams about her husband and about seeing him soon. I think my dears that I wrote about everyone. If I omitted somebody please remind me. I am glad my dears that you are well and we believe that we will see each other soon and that we will have many good moments together. Hugs and kisses to everyone, please write to us.

Yours,  
Zygmunt

My dears, tonight I will write to you a long letter and for now I kiss you all and send my best regards,  
Bella

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## DOC 79

Letter to J. Stein in Brooklyn  
Warsaw, November 24, 1941

My beloved children,

I received your letter sent on October 16<sup>th</sup>, which brought me a lot of joy. I am glad to hear that you are healthy, Thank God. We are healthy too. I have a bit of rheumatism, but I live hoping that things will improve, God willing. My beloved children, as far as a package is concerned, we did not receive any, only from Lisbon we got four packages with 2 packs of coffee, 2 packs of cacao for which I thank you very much. May God give you health, on the other hand we are.....**cut out by censor**.....About a photograph, I will send you in the next letter. Don't worry. We live with hope that we will survive and that we will see each other again. Why is Ala writing so seldom. Do you know that every letter from you is like a whole life for us. Leonek writes from time to time to Rita and adds a few words for us. What's new with my sisters and brothers? Why doesn't uncle Samuel write to me? Do you see him sometimes? How is Milusia doing? Is Samuel pleased that they got married? Haim is a good man. Bela is supposed to marry Zygmunt. I will let you know when. I cannot write now, I will write in my next letter. In the room that Adam used to live in was made into Zygmunt's workshop. My dear children, I have to let you know that Feliks Mitelsband died, but do not take it to heart. My dearest children, please write to me often, so I will write back. Be well, take care of yourselves. Kisses from your loving Mother

I am sending my best regards to Jozek, Tola, Ala, Leonek, Danula and the rest of my family. Kisses for everyone and best regards to my new son-in-law, Mother.

Dear Aunt!

I would write to you a few times, but when they send a letter, they don't tell me, and when I know that they write a letter, there is never space for me. Regards for Uncle, Aunt Tola, Danula, Uncle Leon, Alusia, Uncle Max and Aunt Doba and her husband. Your Jurek

Dear Tola,

In your letter you complain that I am nor writing to you. I assure you that I wrote a few letters to you, some were even 8 pages long, to Alusia as well and I do not know if you received these letters. I do not know if Uncle Sam received my letters and Mommy's letter. I have a lot to tell you, my dear. Zygmunt sits here now and writes a letter to Jozek, which will explain all about his brothers. I have to add, that relatively speaking, considering what he suffered from them, he writes quite delicately and with reserve, because he says that he doesn't want to worry Jozek. About me, my dear, what can I write, I am Thank God healthy..... **blackd out by censor**.....to Jozek, Danula, Alusia and Max, Leonek. Kisses to Dola and Uncle. Bela. Regards to everyone.

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1942:

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**DOC 80 – not found in collection, does it even belong with the Stein translations?**

*Post card*

Dear Tobka

September 19, 1942

We are very concerned, it is several months since we heard from you. Please write soon if you are working at the same company. How are your dears. Maybe you know where Towka is. Does Zelobica write often? We wrote to her, but we did not hear from her. Thank God, we are well. I am at the same company. Wishing you all the best.

Nei

\*\* How are these people related to the Steins? Names unfamiliar from previous letters.

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**1943:**

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**DOC 81**

Reply Postcard from Mitchlobach, Mirla, Marjein Tyrunewich, Warsaw to J. Stein dated Aug 15, 1943

June 21

My dear ones:

We received the card of June 8 but I am very surprised that my dear ones do not get any of the letter which we wrote. We find ourselves well. This week we received information from the US Consulate in Berlin that nothing can be done right now about receiving the papers, but they will try. We have not received the two packages sent to us. My daughter has not had her operation yet, but thank G'd she is better. An operation was needed but we have to wait. Dear mother is sleeping now. Kisses to all your

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**New Folder: Official Inquiries, 1940**

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**DOC 82**

Page 24

Jan 12, 1940 Inquiry from the Red Cross in Geneva

By Tola Stein in Brooklyn

About Bella and Jurek Tzymund in Warsaw

Reply:

I and Jurek are well. So far we are waiting in vain to receive news about our emigration. Is it possible that you are sitting with folded arms? Did you receive through Lifszyc news about one. Write.

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**DOC 83**

April 20, 1940

Inquiry from the Red Cross – Reply from Warsaw  
Untranslated



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**DOC 84**

June 25, 1940  
Inquiry from the Red Cross – Reply from Warsaw  
Untranslated

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**DOC 85**

Undated  
  
Inquiry from the Red Cross – Reply from Warsaw  
Untranslated

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**DOC 86**

Notification from HIAS, Warsaw August 20, 1940  
HIAS of America, New York, #S.12.043.  
Very Honorable Gentlemen:  
We kindly ask you that you get in touch with the addressee in the US, to transmit to him the following information, and work towards fulfilling of the wishes.  
Addressee in the USA:  
First and last Name: Leonard Mitchell c/o I. Stein  
Address: 1123 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY  
Statement of Request of Sender:  
First and last Name: Boruch Mordecha Mittelsbach  
Degree of relation: Father  
Message: All are healthy, also Mrs. Rita. The petitioner has written several times but not received a reply. He urgently requests an answer and write via air mail to Mr. Lapicki or if possible send a cable. Messages and packages to Warsaw Lezno 67/46. Many thanks for forwarding the information, looking forward to your valued reply.  
Signed: (illegible)

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**Folder: Miscellaneous**

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**No date:**

Translation of a Marriage Certificate 1933 December 15

Jozef Szlifersztejn, 27 years old, son of Moszek Lejb and of Ita Rucahla, whos maiden name was Wajntal married Toba Mitelsbach daughter Boruch Mordka and Mirla Habergic. Married on December 19, 1933.

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*Not Verbatim Translated.* First extract from records of notary Tomasz Miszewski in  
June 25, 1932 Warsaw year 1932

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On June 25, 1932 – in my presence, Tomasz Miszewski, notary in the capital – Warsaw, at my office at Miodowa St No 12, appeared in person, unknown to me, to make an arrangement 1) Jozef Szlifersztejn and 2) Toba Mitelsbach, maiden of age, residing in Warsaw, the first at Dzielna St. No 11, the second at Nowolipie No 60, provided documents as to their identity issued by the Commissioner of Warsaw in the name of Jozef Szlifersztejn on July 9, 1923 #8675 and in the name of Toba Mitelsbach April 1, 1925 #23962 in order to make a prenuptial agreement. The present declared that they intend to unite in marriage, and arrange, based on this document, their financial possession in their marriage as follows: The property each one of the future mates has and will inherit or receive as a gift will remain each one exclusive proprietary. Hence, they establish a separate financial status. However, whatever they earn, will be in joint belonging. Toba revealed that in her present possession is 1000.00 U.s. dollars entire apartment furnishing. Piano, radio, record player and records, kitchen utensils, service for 24, 60 pieces silver setting, 15 pieces crystal, several pictures, linens, fur coat, 2 diamond rings. Jozef Szliferstejn is not

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at present showing his possession, he tells that his future wife Toba Mitelsbach has already brought in all her possession to his apartment, and before this act her had received from her the 1,000.- US dollars. He gives up his right and agrees that all will belong to her.

Notary Tomasz Miszewsky

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Newspaper Clippings

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Family photograph

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Photocopies of correspondence

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Envelopes, no contents and dates unclear

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Yiddish letter

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Western Union Cablegram