

2007.421

25. IV 47 St. Yrieix

My dear Ruth and my dear Sam! Your dear letter, my dear Ruth, of the 15 of this month I received. I see from it the good state of things with you and I can so far report the same of us. Dear Ingele is in school and I want to send the letter off today and she wants to apologize that today she cannot add to it. She is very pleased to receive your messages. My dear Ruth, you write that I had not confirmed the photos of dear Sam. But of course I wrote to you that I had received them and had been so enormously pleased with them and I would be even more pleased if you would send a photo of you two. That you have a good life is such a pleasure for me to hear. I am of course in agreement with what you write, that Ingele should for the time come with a committee. {the translator notes here that she is unsure of the meaning of this} This would not be so hard for you. To have us both come over (via you)—that I do not want on any score. That is too much, dear Ruth. My coming need not be so hasty. I can also work here. Once the child is in America, it is better for Ingele. She is making good progress in learning English. You [will have] a good time with her. She is an especially good child, content with everything. For me it is a sacrifice but I want the best for her. A good mother sacrifices for her children. Aunt Helene is off this week to America and from there to Canada to her son. Maegers are now in Germany to deal with their affairs. They are gone already two weeks and I think that they will come back next week. My dear Ruth, you ask me how things are with Uncle Alfred and family. You know that Uncle Alfred died in Gurs camp. I wrote to you about it. Aunt Selma and Edwin were also deported in 1942 and the Billingheimers also unfortunately were deported. I wrote to [B_____] for a certificate but I have no answer. About dear Herbert I can declare nothing [with certainty]. In my next letter I will write in more detail about this. You write that I should only write on one side [of the paper] and I in a few days will write again. My dear Ruth, your parcels have not yet arrived, but I think they will arrive in the course of next week. My dear Ruth, when you next send a parcel, could you add condensed milk, for here I have no milk for Ingele. [Also, if you could add some saccharin, since one has so little sugar.] Ingele would also again like some chewing gum. So, till the next letter that will follow soon, my best greetings.

Yours, Mama

28.11.47 St. Yrieix

Dear Ruth and Dear Sam!

Received your letter with great pleasure...I and Ingele are well. We are here in St. Yrieix with a family, dear Ingele is well, but I am always very sad and never satisfied. I often see family Mayer, that is my only diversion, I very rarely get to Murat; with Albert it is not as formerly. He is no longer as nice to me as formerly, he has too much fear in front of his mother. I think I give up on him...I continue to like him and am unhappy, but what can I do?

My dear Ruth, I have not received a package from you. I don't know what to think. I am so in need of things for dear Ingele, for example cocoa, tea, and other things, and a little sugar, good coffee. Since I am here in St. Zweire I have not drunk a good cup

2007.421

of coffee or tea and I like it so much. I have to buy a lot for us to hear. My Madam is very stingy, but what can I do. Together with Ingele I cannot find a place and I do not want to be and cannot be alone, I am too nervous.... My dear Ruth, write to me often, do not let me wait so long. How quickly you can write me a line??? I no longer have dear Erwin.

You ask what you should send for our birthday. I have no big wish, for dear Ingele perhaps a pair of shoes for the _____. She has no. 35-36. And I would like a pair of gloves (Glacée, black) and perhaps a nice brooch for me. Here one wears such beautiful brooches. Albert gave me one. I don't like it because it is so black and I do not wear it. Mrs. Mayer received a lovely one from Edith. How often have I asked you about aprons for me? Ingele has an apron that I wash Sundays to be worn fresh on Mondays. And we have no handkerchiefs, neither Ingele or me, I have written about this so often. I want to write to you about something and please answer in the next letter, then I will send you an address. If you could write him a letter in French and ask him if he wants anything, you would send it to him, because he was always so kind to me. Of course, you do not write to him that I am so fond of him, since that is a big family and if they read that, then the devil is out. You will figure out what you write to him.

[At this point the handwriting and copy becomes illegible.]

12.I. 47

My dear Ruth, my dear Sam,

Thanks them for four parcels. Received wonderful photo. Ingele very busy with schoolwork and learning English. About Helen Sorenschein from Mannheim left for American and then will go on to Canada to her son Fritz. Her brother [Sally?] not sending her anything. It is shameful. "He no longer exists for me." Poor Toni was murdered[?] so she is without any siblings. About Helene: had asked for some things she could not take to America for Ingele. She took jam out of the cupboard—3 or 4 little cans/pots she herself had paid for them, 50-75 fr. That was the only related that I still had here. It is a disgrace. _____all I gave Helene in the camp when I worked in the kitchen at Rivesaltes. Everyday I gave her good soup and also lots of other things. Helene a terrible egotist.

Limoges 9. XI. 46

I go every morning at ½ 7 [6:30] with the kitchen and 10 pm go to my room and you can believe that I fall into my bed dead tired. Today is Saturday and things are better. The whole week dear Ingele sees little of me and Saturday afternoon if I am not too tired, I go with her to town and arrange for her to have a few more hours with her. I go with her to a coffee shop or a cinema. She is satisfied with the children. In school she is very good. She is first in class. This week she received from the director a bar of chocolate because she is so good at school, everyone likes her. [from here on is a summary because the text

2007.421

is difficult] Has written twice to Joe and never had reply. He had sent a package that was returned to him. She has been in Limoges over 7 weeks. She was 8 days ago in Murat to see Albert. They miss each other. "He waits for the postman every day, poor fellow." She travels to Murat every four weeks. She is so fond of him. He is coming for a visit. Can he speak German since she cannot speak English. No parcels—winter coming. Already very cold. Ingele has no stockings for the winter and also nightgowns and warm underwear. Ingele has a long way to school in the mornings and she feels sorry for her. Ruth is to think also of her poor mother who has to work hard to earn for herself and Ingele.

7/11/47 St. Yrieix

As I can see from your letter, you want to have us come to America. I cannot accept that. There is too much for you, my dear children. You have been married recently and as first thing, you have to look after yourselves. It is very nice of dear Sam that he wants to consider us; it is touching. I cannot believe it. It was a complete surprise for me, and I absolutely cannot expect you to have to pay so much money for us. It is too costly for you, my dears. I do not want that. My dear Ruth, I can understand it, but it is too much for you. There is no hurry I can work here for the time being. I am used to it here, and can communicate and I don't speak a word of English and also do not understand anything. If dear Erwin were still with me, I would not hesitate one moment to come with him. He could soon repay the costs but how am I to do that, I could never repay.... I am no longer so young. In May and I am 47 years old and am always terribly nervous. [10-12 lines illegible] I am content if you can, now and then, send us something that is not as expensive as having us come. We still have not received a package from you, I'm waiting every day for it. I go a lot to family Mayer. They are very nice to Ingele and me. [illegible rest of page]

[summaries of letters]

St. Yrieix 27 December

Ingele writing to sister and brother—name of family for whom mother works: Mrs. Holderen

Mother writes to Ruth and Sam nothing of significance. Has been in Limoges regarding papers for Ingele to America

St. Yrieix 15 Jan. 1948

Note by Ingele—not significant

Letter from Mama to Ruth and Sam: asking for coffee, tea, powdered milk. Not getting any parcels from "Club" anymore—Ruth to inquire. She made mistake in leaving Murat. She is in St. Yrieix a year; working for 1200 francs per month. This is insufficient. In Paris she could have 7000-8000 francs/month. When Ingele gone, she will not stay in St. Yrieix.

2007.421

St. Yrieix 14 III 48

Mama writing to Ruth and Sam. She is ever so busy. Over Easter 15-20 people will come. So much cooking and dishes to be dealt with. Ingele will help. Lists food parcel items received—cigarettes apparently stolen from parcel. 8 years since they left Germany.

St. Yrieix 2.VIII.48

Mama to Ruth and Sam. Congratulates Ruth on her news. Ingele very pleased to soon be an aunt. New year, family will be away for four weeks. This will allow her to relax. Today 12-14 persons for a meal, so much cooking, so many dishes to wash. Congratulations for Ruth's 22nd birthday.

St. Yrieix 24.9.48

Ingele to sister and brother: My dear little sister Esther is come Monday and departed Thursday.

Mother's PS: Pregnancy of Ruth terminates prematurely. Mother's paper about emigration just about in order. Consequently putting personal things in order.

St. Yrieix 7.IV.48

As soon as she was taken they came to fetch all her things. Now all has been restituted and is to be left for her aunt. It is better to gift than to give something to "them." [Nazis] Has received a photo of Herbert and Erwin and grieves about her two boys.

St. Yrieix 11 May 1948

Mother to Ruth and Sam. Has received a parcel posted on 20 Feb. She says it is taking a long time for parcels to arrive. "I do not think that I can travel with Ingele, whose papers are now in order to come and she has to have left by 20 June." Her own papers still in American so she cannot make it so quickly.

St. Yrieix 3 June 1948

Mama writes about their departure not likely to be very soon. She may go live in Murat for the last four weeks before departure. She would still like parcels of tea, coffee, cocoa.

St. Yrieix 3.X.48

Mama to Ruth and Sam. She is preoccupied with getting papers ready. These have mostly to be obtained from Germany. Meanwhile, still has household tasks to fulfill—bottling cherries, for instance.

St. Yrieix 14.X.48

To Ruth and Sam. The paper chase taking so long. She is astonished that Ruth had written about purchasing tickets. She thought that those who had departed would have tickets paid. She thought that "Committee" looked after this issue. She is worried that Ruth has not written about her husband's attitude to their coming to USA.

St. Yrieix 28.X.48

2007.421

“As you know, little Esther is still here. She is in a children’s home near Paris, with the OSE. I ask myself if I could leave the child here. I would have done it with a heavy heart, since I think it is not easy for a mother to leave her child and I thought once I am over there for a time, OSE could send her to me, but that unfortunately cannot be. OSE told me that I must take the child along. She is on my papers. I thought that if you do not want it, once can say that I _____ it had no one; the parents are dead, good friends or relatives of ours. Please let me know. I can do nothing else than take her along. I often don’t know what I am at, that’s why I never wrote to you about it. I always thought that the OSE would keep her here for some time...Esther can come at the cost of half fare.” She is worried about how she will find money for the fare to Bordeaux, then to Le Havre, she needs to buy a suitcase.

PS from Ingele: I send you a photo from dear mother, Esther, and me.

St. Yrieix 18. XI. 48

To Ruth and Sam. She will help Ruth in every way when she is once in USA. Once in America, one could put Esther in a home. Esther is on her travel passport. Ingele was 13 years old in May. Esther was 7 in May and will be 8. Complaining about working and earning so little.

Lambshiem 26 Sept. 1947

My dears!

We have received your dear letter and thank you greatly for it. I would have written to you sooner, but in your letter I took notice of the fact that you since the end of the war are sending us the first parcel. We waited every day for it and finally on the 25.9.1947 we received a parcel of 12.5 kg. I had resolved not to write to you till your parcel had arrived for me. Image! In Lambshiem everyone asked if Ruth had not sent us a parcel. To my greatest regret, I could only answer this question by saying no. Now I must voice my best thanks to you and Aunt Rose for the loving Care Packet that you arranged to be delivered to us. The parcel was very well packed and the content was in excellent order. In any case you gave us the greatest pleasure with this parcel even if it took a bit long to arrive.

Now I have a question for you. You wrote a letter to us on the 8 July 1947. On the 8 July 1947 was the birthday of your dear father. But you did not write a word of this. And on 5 Dec. it is 20 years that your father is dead. You were then 1 year old. Something like this one cannot and must not forget. Now I want to return to the question of the inheritance. At the time, Aunt Rosa had sent to you the papers from the mayor’s office in Lamsheim, but they probably got lost. Since then we had a visit from an official from America. This gentleman came to make enquiries of us and traveled in the whole of Germany to make similar enquiries. Consequently you do not need the papers from us anymore. It is all going its way. We must now wait till it is done. And you must be patient. We have time and for us it is better if it still takes some time since we would not at this point receive any dollars and our money is after all without any value.

Dear Ruth! You write that we receive so much from the farmer. Dear child, if you knew how Germany looks. Everything is smashed. The entire towns of Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Frankenthal. Alfred’s house is a rubble heap. In Frankenthal you would

2007.421

no longer be able to find your way. In $\frac{3}{4}$ hour attack everything was smashed. Do not ask what we endured day and night, attack after attack.

This year the farmers had a very bad harvest. We have not had any rain for some months and everything is dried up. It was assumed that there would be 3 liters of potatoes per person for the winter. Do you think that one can manage with this amount till the spring? It would be better if we already had this ration. With us there are only promises and no deeds.

You can imagine that the _____ is again in orders. You will have heard from Aunt L_____ how everything was thrown together in disorder. Today we are in the midst of it all in misery. We are in Germany as poor as never before. The food ration portions are not sufficient to live or to die. Uncle Fritz and Freya often come to us. They are very well. Have heard nothing from your mother. I would like once to see Ingelein.

I work as previously in a factory. I leave in the mornings with the bye and come home in the ____ in summer as in winter. I am already 52 years old and Aunt Rosa is 58. The era and the years pass and on account of the war much has changed. Your brother and sister Erwin and Herbert, Alfred, Selma, and Edwin, David, Ilse, Gerda and all relatives and friends are no more. For what? For these Nazi tramps, they [had to sacrifice their lives] I myself was gone 5 months and was lucky that I got to come again. It was time that [Americans come to rescue us] or I would also have [had to think about it.]

And now we are freed and have to suffer hunger. If we did not get grain or various foodstuffs from America one would not survive or would face extinction.

In Lamsheim little has changed. The graves in the cemetery have been tidied up, also the entire cemetery. I don't know more to write about. I will close my letter and wish you, dear Ruth, and your dear husband everything, good health and businesswise and remain with a thousand greetings and kisses, your Uncle Julius and Rosa

Hopefully this letter reaches you and gives you pleasure. Again, thanks and everything good.

Lamsheim 4 November 1947

My dears!

Received your dear letter with much pleasure and send you our best thanks. I will now take some time to answer your letter. Rosa will have your things, the birth certificates sent to you, but death information will not be available, since we do not know what happened to Herbert and Erwin. They could only be declared missing. Erwin was taken with his Mama and Herbert was taken later. In fact, Herbert came to Poland. In Poland it was very bad with the Jews. There all the Jews were murdered from the youngest to the oldest. My brother Rudolf who fell [in the war] was in Poland as a soldier, told me of this when he was here on leave.

As we gather from your letter, you want to have the little Ingelein come to you. Aunt Rosa would so much once more like to see her. Why does your mother not write us? Rosa always says she should write to us once and she has written to Kohle-Stahlers. Rosa and I were at the marriage of Fritz in Heidelberg. He has a very nice wife who arranged the celebration very pleasantly. A lot of food was offered. Freya has become a pretty girl. Fritz and his wife have two children (girls) who are already grown up. One, Ruth, left for the US on 31.10.1947 on a boat to New York. On Sunday we had visitors. Greta

2007.421

Bohm who had a business in Mannheim [translator says the rest of the sentence makes no sense]. She is the sister of Alfred and has come from France and wants once again to open a business in Mannheim, but everything there is refuse and ashes because of the air raids. Little has changed in Lambsheim. Dear Ruth! You wrote to us that if we need anything we should write to you, but we do not want to be demanding, if you want to send something you go ahead. Do what you can do, but leave aside what you cannot do easily. We leave all that to you. I have one wish, if you have any used stamps, please send them to me. Aunt has a wish. If you can do it, send her spices and perhaps stockings. What goes on with Aunt Luzie, we get no more mail from her. We are worried about that. Rosa thinks she felt offended because so many people from here wrote to America. People also come to me and want addresses. Initially we could not deny them and always gave the addresses; today we no longer do it, we have learnt meanwhile. But I wrote Luzie from the start that she can do what she feels like; now we feel guilty about our proceeding. It is not our fault for we did point out the situation to Aunt Luzie.

We send greetings from Mrs. Ebrecht, Family Frischknecht, Family Hahn and Kleber, Family Arnold, Marie, Stahler, Schnell, and Kirsten, Manda and family Barth. In the hope that you and your husband continue to be well in health and in business,

Uncle Julius and Aunt Rosl

Christmas, 25.12.47

My dears! I send you the letter. Perhaps it will give you some insight, dear Ruth.

Julius and Rosa

Christmas 25.12.47

My dear, dear Ruth!

Received the second package on 22.12.47 just before Christmas and that increased our pleasure. Today we also received a letter from Henry Abraham, who heard from Aunt Luzie that you were so well married. And that is what you deserve—a poor orphan as you once were and now married to a fine man illustrates that one can once in a while be lucky. Your father had to say goodbye to you all so early. And you as a child had to leave us all, your mother and your brothers and sisters. And I and Aunt Rosa had to part from you with tears in our eyes. That was not so easy for you or for us. Your aunt would never believe it, but it was so. But dear Ruth! What good fortune that you did so well, and today you have a fine man and hopefully also a good fortune. We both, I and Rosa, wish you everything good for the future and for your husband.

For the two parcels we cannot reciprocate, except perhaps later some time. I still go to work everyday. We are no longer young, Aunt and I. Aunt is 58 years and I am 52 years and you, dear Ruth, may later after our death take over our estate. But hopefully we will still live long and can write to you and your husband for a good long time! I send you a letter, written in Dec. 1946 and we received it 19.12.1947. We had the letter translated, but are bewildered, according to the date, the letter was nearly a year in transit. You can read the letter, it is written in French and you can send it to your mother. By request of Aunt Rosa I was to ask you if you have heard more about the inheritance from Uncle Ben. Let us know, we know nothing. Aunt thinks this inheritance would turn out well. In the hope that you and your husband will live long and best wishes for your business, I remain yours, Julius and Rosa

2007.421

Lambsheim 2.2.1948

My dears,

Thank you for your letter from which we gather that you once again have sent us a package. That is very kind and good of you, dear Ruth! Recently you have sacrificed a good deal for us and from your letter I gather that everything is very expensive with you. Dear Ruth! Do what you can, there is no need to sacrifice for us. Above all and first take care of your husband your household and for your business. Hopefully your husband has no reservations if you send us a package now and then. But if it is not possible, forget about it. We are now informed about the letter from Ingele, and with the inheritance I want to inform you as follows:

For us there is no point that we undertake something either today or tomorrow. It is better for us, if it takes so long that we have a [better rate of exchange?] if we receive the inheritance today, we would undoubtedly not receive dollars but the money would be exchanged into German money and in half a year it might be devalued and we would have nothing. We do not want to undertake anything. The longer it takes the better. With you, dear Ruth, it is a different matter. You can very well use the inheritance for the business. You must know what you must do. I can imagine what it is to begin a business and must buy all sorts of things and customers are scarce or the money of customers is scarce. It is not easy.

With the money for Erwin and Herbert you are not likely to have much luck. No one knows where things stand. Above all you must have the [death certificate?] Who can supply these? Up to now—no one. Perhaps in ten years one can declare them dead. The officer who came to us only registered which of you were still around and how Rosa was. That was all.

[the letter is signed "Lambsheimers"]

Lambsheim 5 April 1948

My dears! Dear Ruth!

Two packages have arrived. Acknowledged with thanks, etc. Concerning inheritance: Uncle Fritz and a friend Moser had businesses in Heidelberg and had both been in a concentration camp, but were due to now go to the USA. Another friend of Moser's had offered to put things in order regarding the inheritance and one could only rely on him. He was always back in the USA by now. Uncle Fritz and Moser's emigration would still take some time but it would certainly take place.

Concerning enquiring by her mother about things left with them in the Third Reich. Everything had been taken—the bedroom, for example, and everyone's clothing—Erwin's, Herbert's, yours, Inge's. He had written to her mother about it. Request that parcels be packed better. Care packages arrive best and tend not to have things taken out. All other are opened at customs and things disappear.

Juli and Rosa

2007.421

Lambsheim 20.6.48

[To Ruth:]

A bad day for them. “For the second time we have become poverty-stricken—our money is again devalued. “ They must give 120 old money and then receive 40 mk. This is the second time they have saved and now they can’t start again. [translator here states that the next bits are unclear to her] Uncle Kahn, the uncle of Ludwig Moser—Uncle Kahn was willing to look into the matter of the inheritance on his arrival in the USA. Since his arrival has visited Ruth.

Uncle Fritz and his family and Ludwig Moser and family also are coming to the USA. Fritz will visit Ruth and report on matters. Fritz gives them monthly rent.

Her mother is to send a confirmation for the things of Erwin, Herbert, and Inge that were picked up during their absence. The things that the Jews in Lambsheim had to leave behind were auctioned. Now it all has to be returned if we want to use it [hence need a confirmation by her mother]. Should we gift it to this rabble—on no account.

Uncle Julius and Aunt Rosa

St. Zweire 26 April 1947

I received your letter with great pleasure and can see from it that things are good with you. I can say the same of ourselves. Your letter was a little brief and I am waiting for a long time for mail from you, but you always write so briefly. As you write you have again sent a package to us. I have not yet received it and that’s why I wait with _____ your letter, since I always think it can all go in one post. It costs 25 francs for a letter. I do not have so much leftover money. I do not earn much. With Inge there are costs. Last we she went on an excursion with the school to the sea. She is such an excellent schoolgirl and is such a good girl, so I want her to have some pleasures. Dear Ruth, I want to ask you about Helene. I can deduce from your letter she did not visit you. I wrote to you in a letter, did you not receive it. I asked [translator’s note—she writes “asked” but it should say “told”] you that she gave me things and allowed herself to be paid.

You write that in August you will travel to Canada to visit her, but it is not necessary that you look her up. I will soon write you another letter will detail about her and how she behaved toward me. How is dear Sam, you write nothing about him and I am interested in him, my son-in-law. And what to write about that is new? Ingele goes swimming every day. She will write again in the next letter. Write to me again, dear Ruth, I am always happy when I hear from you. I have not had any more news from a long time from Robert. I hear from no one, I think of my brother, he constantly and for years sent parcels to [Helene?] she is more closely related to him. So my dear Ruth, no more for today but my heartfelt greetings and kisses for you both,

From your, Mama and Ingele

St. Zweire 1.April.47

2007.421

My dear Ruth and dear Sam!

Today I received your dear letter of 28 March. It was here in 4 days already. I also received yesterday two packages sent on 3.11. You can imagine how pleased we were, the beautiful things that were inside, everything wonderful. I think nothing was missing. I was delighted with the food items, everything is useable. The other things _____ well, the coat _____.

Aunt Martha's mother died (saw it in the Aufbau). I cut out the death notice. Dear Ruth, last year I asked you about the Aufbau. I have not received it up to today. I do not have much to write today, I am a bit nervous. Dear Ingele is so dear. I am happy that she is with me, because alone I would be despairing. This week is Easter and Pesach, I don't have any expectations.

We will have many visitors, I have much work. Over Easter we are 14-16 persons. Inge helps me a lot with this. My dear Ruth, I know that you mean the very best for us, but it is too much for you. I do not want this—to be doing errands for us to enable us to come to America—it is too much. How are things with you? You write little about your family life. I think that it would be difficult _____ for you both to start a new [practice?] You have enough and I do not want to see you have so many expenses for us. For the ____ you can send us thing sand I will also be content. Dear Ruth, I am alone. You cannot do everything for us. Excuse me today, dear Ruth, I cannot write more today. More next time, but write again soon _____ to receive mail from you. Everything good for you and I wish you both a good Easter holiday and a good Pesach. May the ____ taste good. Greetings and many kisses from your Mama.

My dear Ruth and Sam,

I thank you greatly for the parcel you sent us. I was very happy with the satchel and also with the bathing suit. The coat is very handsome, but it is too large. We are in good health and I hope that you and your husband are well. In class, I have been number one. Mother is satisfied. I am on vacation but I am rather bored because one cannot go to play in the garden because it rains so much. I wish you a good Easter and I send you good wishes, embraces, and kisses for Sam.

The little sister who loves you, Ingele

St. Zweire 12.__.47

Confirms arrival of 3 parcels, sent on 8 June. The foodstuffs are wonderful, they can "very well use everything." Clothing fitting pretty well. Mentions skirt for Ingele, also a "wonderful coat." She is looking after a house, a live-in job, whose owner has gone on vacation. She is feeding the chickens and rabbits but also taking it easier. They have had so many visitors. She was in the kitchen from 6am to 9:30 or 10pm. Albert is again very sick, with a 40 degree C fever and very weak and may die, people say. Good wishes, etc.

Mama and extra kisses for Sam

St. Zweire VIII.47

2007.421

Dear Ruth and Sami,

Awaiting parcels eagerly; hoping they will contain foodstuffs since what can be bought is very expensive. She cannot buy much because of her small earnings and the need to buy extras for Inge. By tomorrow they will have been 8 days practically without bread (the bakers having no flour for baking).

[Reports of near desperation of Mayers who had not received a parcel for a long time. The OSE had withdrawn their support and pay nothing for Ingele].

She earns 1200 fr per month. Everything is very costly. One gets nothing for 100 fr.

Very woebegone and alone. Refers to being entirely dependent on herself. If would be different if "poor Er" were still around. Asks if Ruth could include one dollar in letters. Ruth's letters are so brief. In her own case, a letter costs 25 fr, but if she writes more it would be double. Congratulations for the 21st birthday that is approaching. She wanted to have a photo made of herself and Ingele, but it was too costly, given his salary of 1200 fr. a month. Perhaps possible later on.

Had a letter from Helene who intends to visit Ruth. Tells Ruth, however, not to put herself out on behalf of Helen. Many kisses, etc.

Mama

PS-Dear sister and brother,

She knows how to swim and will go today. It is not difficult. Sends good wishes for birthday and the party. It is very hot, 36 degrees today. Sends kisses for each cheek.

Signed by sister who often things of them both,

Ingele

St. Zweire 3 Sept. 1947

My dear Ruth, my dear Sam!

Ruth has written to say that Ingele should come to her, and Ruth's mother writes that she is glad but also fears that she will be so alone and that is something she is afraid of. She has a lot of work but at present her people are away and meanwhile she is cleaning the whole house and Ingele is helping. Asks for warm nightgowns since their room is like a cellar in the winter.

Kisses, etc. Mama

PS—by Ingele to Ruth and Sam, sends greetings

St. Zweire 19.9.47

Dear Ruth and Sam!

Thanks for dollar included in a letter, a wonderful coat for Ingele, a dress, nightgown, vest, underwear. She would also very much appreciate a food parcel. Ask for saccharin (1 lb of sugar per month is the allotted ration), milk in can, chocolate, a bra [gives size]. Her madam gets one liter of milk a day and she makes cheese with these for her husband. Her people are back and 16 persons coming for lunch and supper and she is ever so busy.

2007.421

Albert is healthy again, but sees little of him. Would like some cigarettes for him and herself. Also asks for chewing gum for Ingele. When Ingele leaves she will not stay at the present place.

Mama

PS—Greetings and account of her amusements (swimming, fishing, cinema, etc) by Ingele for “dear sister and brother”

St. Zweire 16.Oct.1947

Dear Ruth and dear Sam:

When she sends a parcel to include soap and sewing thread, black and white (and beige) “since nothing is available here”. Everything is so costly.

Mayers going back to Germany. She is left with no one to visit. Her sad life—perhaps would have been better if she had died and she would be with Erwin and Herbert instead of being afflicted with so many sorrows and anxieties and no one to talk to, frankly. Ruth now married and cannot take her on. Ruth has enough to take care of.

Mama

PS—From Ingele reporting about not fasting for Jewish holidays and her amusements, asking if they have any dogs or cats in their house.

St. Zweire 7.Nov.1947

Ingele writing to sister and brother in Philadelphia. “I am twelve years old since 7 May 1947.”

Mother writing to Ruth:

- thanking for dollar included in letter
- worried Ruth is sending more than she can afford
- asks if she still gets Aufbau
- asks about Aunt Luzie and Uncle Salli
- Uncle Salli seems to be her mother’s brother. “Perhaps I am dead so far as he is concerned...not good that a brother cannot find time to write a letter to his poor sister who is so alone. I would never ask him to do something for me. I never did it when I was half starved in the camp and will never do it.”
- She has worked hard also in Germany but had hoped when the boys had grown she would have an easier life. They had been her hope and support but all that was gone.

St. Zweire 7.I.49(?)

To Ruth and Sam,

No news from Bordeaux. Has had no parcels since July. A great deal of housework—20 persons for New Year and Christmas.

2007.421

St. Zweire 28.I.49

To Ruth and Sam,

They have finally been given appointments for the consulate from 7th February but their travel permit meanwhile expired on 20 Jan. and she now has to renew that. Also needs to have blood samples taken, also pictures. Costs high, 3000 fr. per person. This would have been 9000 fr for the doctor alone and she cannot produce this money. Could Ruth send her 10-20 dollars in a letter very quickly? She also has to go to Limoges to exchange it into francs.

St. Zweire 11.II.49

The letter with 20\$ has arrived. Description of the run-around in Bordeaux to get final approval for their departure—the expenses involved. She does not understand why an organization that paid everything for another woman who had been a deportee will not pay her costs. The trip to Bordeaux in 3 days in hotel costs over 14,000 fr. She herself had been deported and they should pay for her.

PS from Ingele describing the Bordeaux trip to obtain visa in detail. Ruth to send money for Atlantic voyage to HIAS in New York.

St. Zweire 28.II.49

She is glad to leave her position a few days early to get ready in Murat. Her working conditions very onerous—description of hours and demands. She now has all the papers and the visa from Bordeaux. Will find out which ship will bring them.

St. Zweire 6.1.48

Dear Ruth and Sam,

I think you have received the letter Ingele wrote on 27.12.47. I added a few words and today I will tell you about Erwin. I hope you both are well—as we are. Our visitors are gone, the house is empty and Ingele goes to school again. I will give you a detailed report so that you can tell our lawyer for the moment that I wrote to a lady in _____ who is the director of a hotel where Erwin worked, a very nice woman, Erwin told me when he was here the last time. She was like a mother to him. When I was there last summer, she went everywhere with me but I had lost her address—what should I do? I talked to my _____ Mr. Holderer. All of a sudden I knew where I was with Mademoiselle _____ and that her name and Mr. Holderer wrote to the director of the hotel and received an answer and as he had written about what it was about, Erna went to the office where they give information. Mr. H. went to a lawyer here, who took the matter into his hands. He wrote a letter to Mlle. Erna that she should sign that she knew Erwin and now everything is running smoothly and I think things will be ok. He wrote a letter to Mlle. Erna which she should sign that she knew Erwin and everything runs its way now

2007.421

and I believe things will work out. It all goes to the court, there a death certificate will be filled out, I think for Erwin Salmon. You can inform your lawyer and I believe everything will be finished soon. As soon as I know more, I will let you know and if all goes well, I will write you the address of Mlle Erna so that you can thank her because such a lovely person doesn't exist anymore. She was standing next to him when he was shot on the Street at Berberbe and Le Mont Dave. When the poor Erwin was shot one immediately sent her to Germany to a concentration camp, where she suffered greatly. I hope Ruth, that you understand everything so far, I will keep you informed. I wrote to Germany, I wait for an answer. For today I wrote enough. I know nothing more.

Many greetings and kisses, Mama

Please write soon and stay healthy. Greetings from Ingele. I also wrote to Helene.

St. Zweire 22.5.47

My dear Ruth and dear Sam,

This morning I received your letter of the 18th and I was glad to see that you are well, which I can state about us too. I think you have gotten my letter in the meantime, which I sent to you last week. I confirmed in this letter that we received _____. Please write that you received this letter because it contained some things which I would not like to get lost. I will inform you today about what you asked me: dates of Erwin and Herbert. I will write to you also where they were born. Erwin was born 24 September 1921 in Landsheim. Herbert was on 1 October 1922 in Landsheim born and your dear father died on 7 December 1927 in Landsheim and Erwin was shot by the police on 7 or 9 April 1944 and from Herbert I have no news. In 1941 I had a letter through her friend that he was deported to Poland. So you see, my dear child, this is all I can report to you. If you need something else please write. With the little Ingele it won't be as easy as you think. I will also inquire here. After Pentecost, I will go to _____. I will ask at OSE. The Aufbau I received this week—many thanks. I am always happy to get something from you. For today, many greetings and kisses.

Mama

Greetings to Sam. More another time. Today in a hurry.

St. Zweire 15.2.48

Dear Ruth and Sam,

Yesterday I received your letter of the 11.2. It came very fast. I will answer promptly. I hope you have received my letter, which I wrote last week. I am happy that you are both in excellent health, the same here. As you were surprised, so was I on receipt of your letter that a late called you and told you I had to travel with Ingele. I cannot imagine how she got to that, you would be the first one I would have told this. You know that I don't want to come if Ingele is away and I want to still earn a bit of money, you know that I own very little here, live from hand to mouth and cannot save anything until the end of the month. I earn only 1200 francs. That is nothing. I have to

2007.421

buy extras for Inge, everything is very expensive. I can imagine that you would be happy if we came together but I believe it doesn't work. I thought to answer you immediately so you know where you stand, but if you started with the papers I cannot do anything—one has to let it go. I have been today and will write a more extensive letter and to answer you the letter before the last one in which you posed many questions. I want to report that when you were in Rivesaltes and said goodbye to me I was in bed with a ___ infection. I was lying for 6 weeks—it was my right leg and even today I have lots of trouble with the leg. In the evening, when I am tired I can hardly walk.

Now to the point, I don't remember if it was April or May 1941 when you came to visit me. I delivered the little Esther, I was exactly 8 weeks pregnant when we left Germany. You can imagine how unhappy I was to leave under these circumstances. I spent the time in camp with little food—they put me in the hospital the last month. The child was, since her birth, never with me, because I could not feed her. When I left the Maternity, they did not give me the child. It was a difficult moment and they said she would die if I take her with me to the camp. She stayed in Swiss Childcare place until she got strong, then she came to me in the neighborhood of Limoges where I could see her every month and when the Germans came she was hidden just like Ingele, then she came to an OSE domicile in St. Etienne and now she is near Paris in an OSE domicile. If the little Esther would not have been there, they would have been deported me too because they always made photos of people who were deported and one had to say how many children one had, what age, and mothers of children under 2 years old were not deported. Now you know everything.

Now you can understand that I cannot have the poor child and leave. For three people that is too much for you. Yes, if I could have the little Esther here, but I don't want that. When Inge is away I will not take the little one to me as I wrote you. I would then like to find a good position to earn money—that is what I want. It is very nice that your husband wants to be good to me, but I cannot and will not accept it _____ your interest. If you accept Ingele, that is enough. I will be very grateful. I can imagine that you would be happy. I would also be delighted to be with you after such a long separation, we would have lots to talk about, where my life had so many difficult moments. But I carry it all willingly if God will keep me healthy that I can work and earn my living. I don't know how I can thank you and love that you are so good to me. Please answer me how it will be—as difficult as it is to part with Ingele, who is so kind to me, but what shall I do. She wanted to enclose a photo in the last letter, but the letter was gone, so I will enclose it today—it was made in the school. It is not as good as the first, you will like it. I wrote to Landsheim because they wrote to me that my things were picked up. The bedroom was brought back without linens, my clothes... [the translator forgot the last paragraph, but there are only a few lines missing, and they seem to be miscellaneous]

St. Zweire 28.10.48

My dear Ruth, my dear Sam,

2007.421

Received letter of 16.10.48 with great joy. I can see from it that your health is good. I can report the same from us. Thanks for the enclosed dollars. I was happy to receive these. I saw from your not that Sam is so kind to us. That means double happiness, I was afraid he would not be satisfied when we come. But I did not want to go only not to hurt my 2 dear children. I think it will work out, I will do my most possible to help you in order to repay the great costs. You know Ruth, I am very worried about that. I don't want to be a burden to you, in no way. So, dear Ruth, in order to get to the point about what you wrote. You wrote about the things to be sent to Bordeaux. Yesterday I sent all papers, which I had to the consulate in Bordeaux, I could not do it before, it was not my fault because it took a long time before I received my "Titu de voyage" from the prefecture in Limoges. It was useless to send the other papers to Bordeaux. I think that now it will soon work and I hope that we will be called soon to the consulate. You cannot imagine, Ruth, how much I had to do with that and the money it costs and I am still in my job, with lots of work. I have to have everything in my death. Often I am so nervous that I don't know where my head it—also if one doesn't have any money. I would badly need to buy a suitcase. I don't know where I should pack my things. Everything is so expensive and the trip to Bordeaux costs a lot of money. I have to see what I will do, I think in Bordeaux one gets paid. Ruth, you write that a lady from the Joint Distribution Committee said that they wrote to me and asked whether I need help. I never heard from them, surely I could have used help. Please tell the lady that I never received anything. Maybe they can still do something for us now. You see it wasn't my fault, the prefecture took so long. I don't like to do it, but now that all has been started, one has to finish it. I feel so badly that I have to burden you with everything. I would have liked to be alone these last few months to prepare my things to keep myself ready. I will wait now what I will hear from Bordeaux and am sure that everything is in order. I will go the last weeks to _____ and leave from there because it is impossible that I remain in my job until the last day, especially with this mean person. I am happy when I don't have to see her anymore, all this is not important now. I will always keep you informed what I am doing when I get my convocation or when I return from Bordeaux I will let you know. You receive the letters in 5-6 days and can answer immediately so that we are both informed. Now I still have to report something. As you know, the little Esther is here. She is near Paris in the children's home with the OSE. I ask myself if I can leave the child here, I would do it with a heavy heart because I believe it is not easy for a mother to leave her child. I thought that once I am there, after some time OSE could send her to me, but doesn't work though and OSE says I will have to take her along. What can I do? I spent a lot of time with OSE but I couldn't get out of it. She is on my papers. I thought if you don't agree to have her, one can say that I _____. She has no one, her parents are dead, those acquaintances of ours. One will see, please let me know immediately. I cannot do anything else, but take her along. Do you believe now that I sometimes don't know where my head is, that's why I never write about that OSE would keep her for some time here. I think that you are satisfied with this. What can you do? You have your troubles with us.. Esther can go on ½ ticket. I do nothing right now until we will be asked to come to Bordeaux. When I have the visa, one will see further what one can do. Right now, I have to see where I can get money for all that. The trip to Bordeaux and then until Le Havre where we will take the ship that costs a lot of money. But thank God we have enough clothes, I only have to buy 1 suitcase, that will cost enough. Enclosed I send you

2007.421

three photos of us, also of the little one. I needed them to send to Bordeaux and the little one was here. My dear Ruth, I wrote enough for today. Until the next letter, best greetings and kisses to you and Sam. From your mother.

[letter from sister in English follows]