

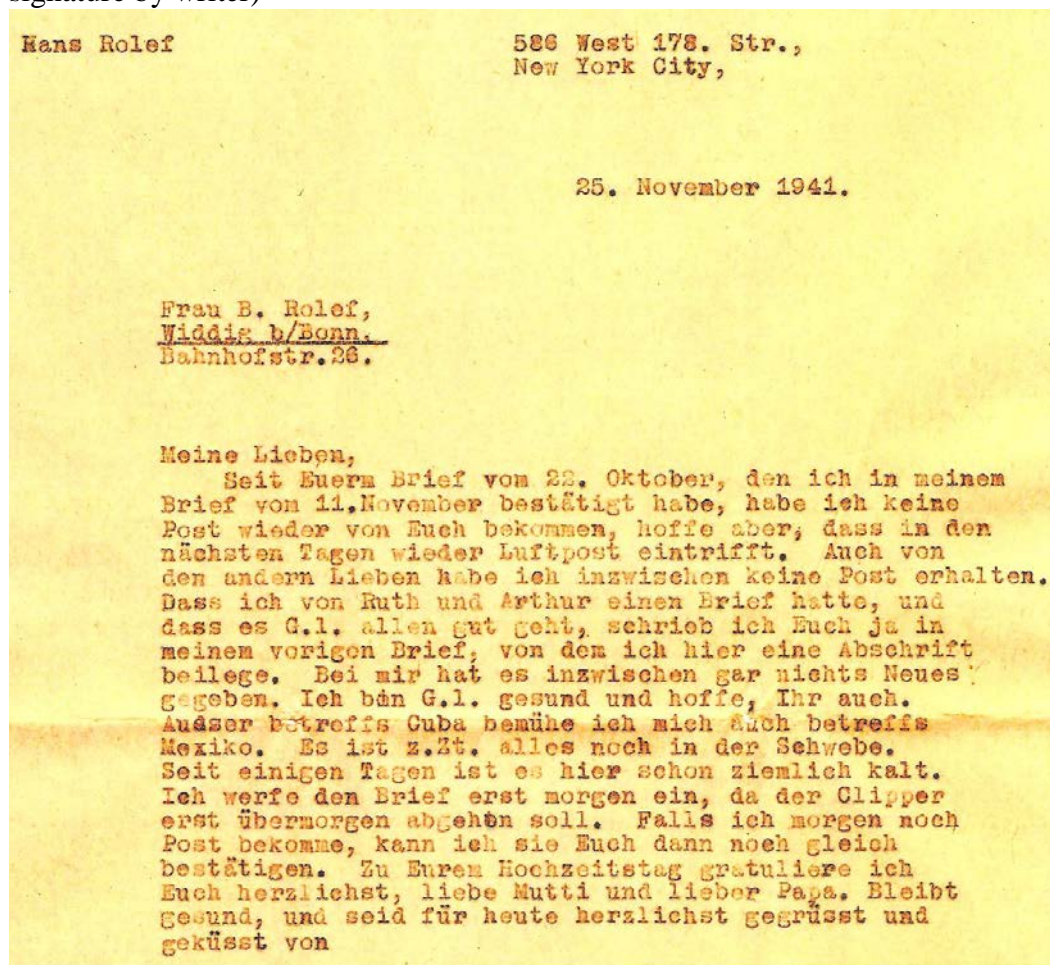
USHMM ROLEF Family Correspondence

Item #1. Ltr typewritten; return address Hans Rolef 586 West 178th Street NYC
Dated 11.25.1941

*Mrs. B.Rolef --Widdig near Bonn
Bahnhofstrasse 26*

My loved ones,

Haven't had any news from you since your letter of October 22--receipt of which I acknowledged with mine of November 11 though do hope that there'll be some air mail in the next few days. I haven't had any mail from the other loved ones either. I did write in my earlier letter to you--of which a copy herewith-- that I heard from Ruth and Arthur and that, thanks be, they are well. Nothing new meanwhile as far as I am concerned. Thanks be, I am well and hope the same is true as far as you are concerned. In addition to Cuba, I am also doing what I can regarding Mexico. For the time being, everything is very iffy. It's gotten pretty cold here in the last few days. I'll only post this letter tomorrow as the Clipper--(the mail plane) -- is only to leave day after tomorrow. Just in case I should have mail from you tomorrow I could thus confirm it to you right away. Many good heartfelt wishes on your wedding anniversary dear Mommy and Daddy. Do stay well and for now all the best and many kisses from. {presumably holographic signature by writer)



Item #2 Ltr typewritten, return address and addressee as above

Dated 12.10.1941

My loved ones,

After an interval of four weeks, thanks be today I again had mail from you, namely your precious letters of October 29 and November 5 and your precious card of November 12 and you can imagine that I was delighted to thus learn that, thanks be, you are well. I also had mail today from Uncle Max. Herbert had a bad lung infection and was abed for six weeks. Thanks be he's fairly well again. From what they wrote I understand that he was outdoors for twenty minutes. All the others were healthy, thanks be. From what uncle Max wrote I gather they had a nice letter from Else and Hans. Meanwhile you will have received my letter in which I mention Ruth's letter. Unfortunately the whole world situation has gotten worse of late. As to your emigration to Cuba it is something with which I am very busy and if the trip there should be at all possible be assured that it'll be taken care of for you. It is not only a matter of money but, as you may well also have heard, there are money obstacles. The fact that your emigration to the US didn't work out this last summer was due to the fact that, by the time you were ready, there were no ship booking possibilities. It is a fact that I didn't have the money but there were others who had paid much earlier who didn't get any ship booking. Kurt Moses' mother was, I believe, ahead of you in the waiting list and wasn't able to ship out either. I again promise to leave nothing undone in order to see to your coming here and it is terrible that, until now, nothing has worked out. But I still have the hope that it will work out. I was delighted to receive the greetings from Hamm. Of course we'll all get together again. May the Almighty keep you and may He see to it that there be again peace in the whole world. Give my regards to uncle Sal and all our friends with, for you, my innermost thoughts and deepest love, Hans

Meine Lieben,
Heute erhielt ich nach einem Zwischenraum von vier Wochen G.S.B. wieder Post von Euch, und zwar Eure 1b. Briefe vom 29. Oktober und 5. November und Eure 1b. Karte vom 12. November, und Ihr könnt Euch denken, dass ich mich damit sehr erfreut habe, habe ich doch daraus erfahren, dass Ihr G.I. Gesund seid. Von Onkel Max bekam ich heute auch einen Brief. Herbert hatte eine schwere Lungentzündung und sechs Wochen fest gelegen. G.S.B. ist er wieder soweit hergestellt. Als sie mir schrieben, war er zum ersten Mal wieder auf der Strasse für zwanzig Minuten. Die andern waren G.I. alle gesund. Wie mir Onkel Max schrieb, hatten sie von Else und Hans einen schönen Brief erhalten. Keinen Brief, in dem ich Euch von Ruths Brief berichtete, verdet Ihr inzwischen wohl erhalten haben. Leider hat sich in der letzten Zeit die ganze Welt situation noch verschärft. betreffs Eurer Auswanderung nach Cuba bin ich sehr bemüht, und wenn die Anreise dorthin weiter möglich ist, so könnt Ihr Euch darauf verlassen, dass es für Euch gemacht wird. Das ist nicht nur eine Gelörage, sondern wie Ihr wahrscheinlich auch gehört habt, bestehen da grosse Schwierigkeiten. Dass es im Sommer mit Eurer Auswanderung nach den vereinbarten Staaten nicht geklappt hat, lag daran, dass es keine buchungs- möglichkeiten für schiffsplätze gab, als Ihr soweit wart. Es stimmt, dass ich das Geld nicht bereit hatte, aber andere, die schon viel früher eingezahlt hatten, haben auch keine schiffsplätze mehr bekommen. Die Mutter von Kurt Moses war auch, glaube ich, viel vor auch an der Reihe und konnte auch nicht reisen. Ich verspreche Euch nochmals, dass ich nicht reiste und nichts schene, um Euer Hierpersonnen durchzusetzen, und es ist furchtbar, dass bis jetzt immer alles nicht geklappt hat. Aber ich habe immer noch Hoffnung, dass es doch noch gelingt. Mit Himmels Grüssen habe ich mich sehr gefreut. Selbstverständlich werden wir alle mal wieder besuchen. Möge der liebe Gott Euch Gesund erhalten und seid wieder Frieden auf der ganzen Welt einkehren lassen. Grüsst Onkel Sal und alle unsere Freunde, und seid Ihr, meine liebe Mutti u. lieber Papi herzlichst gegrüßt und geliebt von Eurer Euch innigst Liebenden Hans.

Item #3 Postcard dated 6.13.1943

Text handwritten ink. Return address: Bertha Rolef Theresienstadt L 306

Addressed to: Mrs. Ilse Lewin-Hotel Metropol AROSA (Switzerland)

Stamped text: "Answer only via the Reich Association of Jews in Germany BERLIN Charlottenburg 2 Kantstrasse 158.

Nazi stamp including number (illegible in part) possibly "238"—presumably censor ID number.

Posted Berlin, date illegible.

Theresienstadt June 13, 1943

My loved ones,

We are here since July of last year and continue hoping to hear from you. Postal service works very well here; there is mail and packages arriving on a daily basis. Thanks be we are healthy and we both work. We hope that you are also well and have good news from all our dear ones. Please do write to us! Many good things with heartfelt regards and kisses from uncle and your aunt Bertha.



Item # 4 Postcard dated 9.1.1943

Return address and addressee as above. Readdressed to Villa Dubochet 11/II CLARENS
Departure stamp Berlin 10.13.1943 AROSA Postal arrival stamp 10.20.1943

Text handwritten ink.

Theresienstadt 9.1.1943

My loved ones,

Although we can't understand how come our various messages to you have remained unanswered, we give it another try by giving you a sign of life from us. Many of our acquaintances have had answers to their correspondence from there. We hope that you, together with your dear children and dear ones are well and hope to soon have news from you. Aunt Fanny and Aunt Flora both sadly passed away. Many heartfelt greetings for all of you and many kisses from uncle Abraham and your aunt Berta who loves you.



Item # 5 Postcard dated 10.19.1943

Return address as above Langestrasse 6; addressee as above.

Postal date stamp "Berlin 11.2.1943"

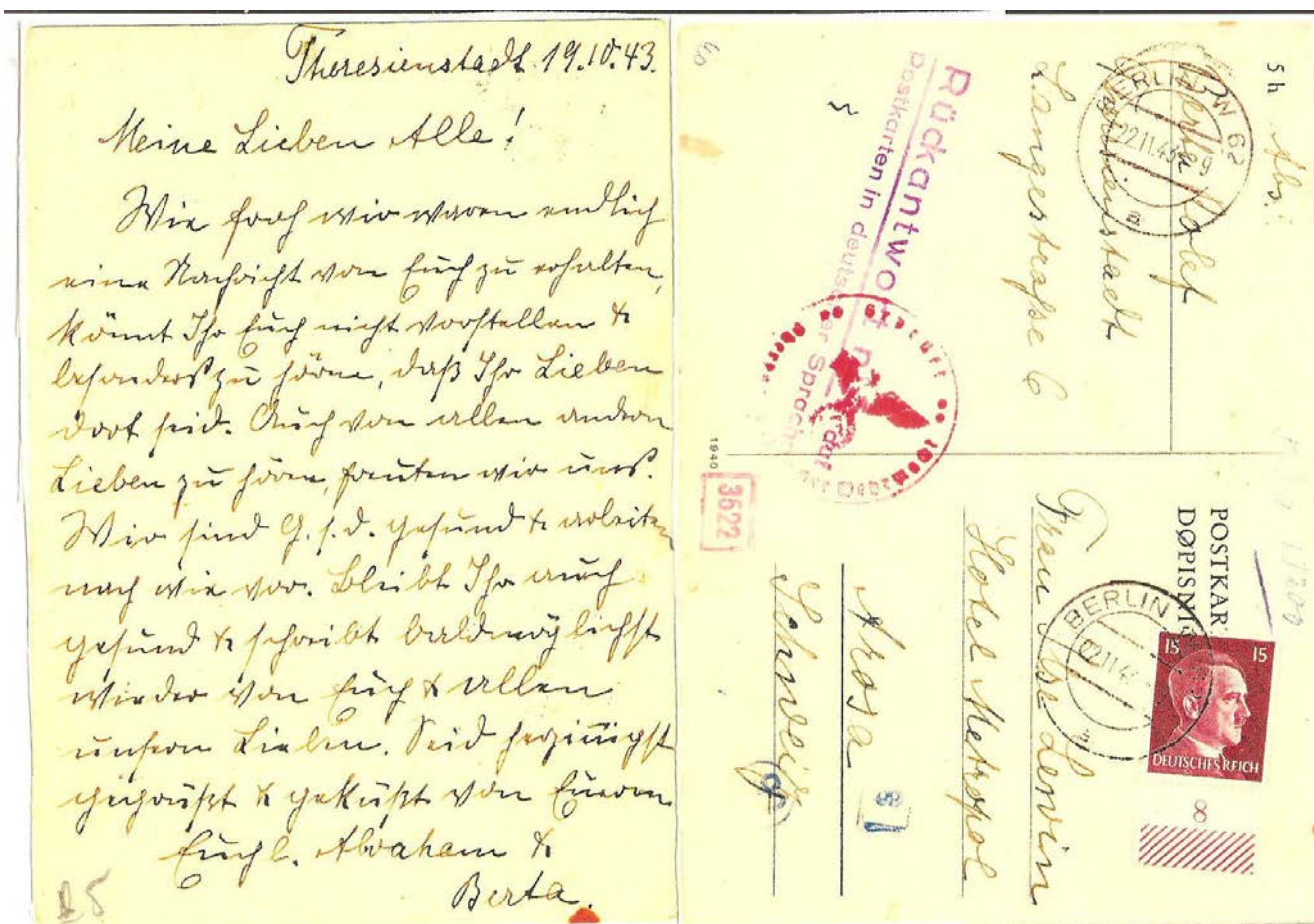
Stamp: Answer may only be in the German language.

Text handwritten ink.

Theresienstadt 10.19.1943

My loved ones!

You can't imagine how delighted we were to finally have news from you and especially to know that you dear ones are there. We were also delighted to hear from all the other dear ones. Thanks be to the Almighty we are well and continue to work as heretofore. Do keep well and do let us hear soon, if possible from you and all the loved ones. Many heartfelt greetings and kisses from your Abraham and Berta who love you.



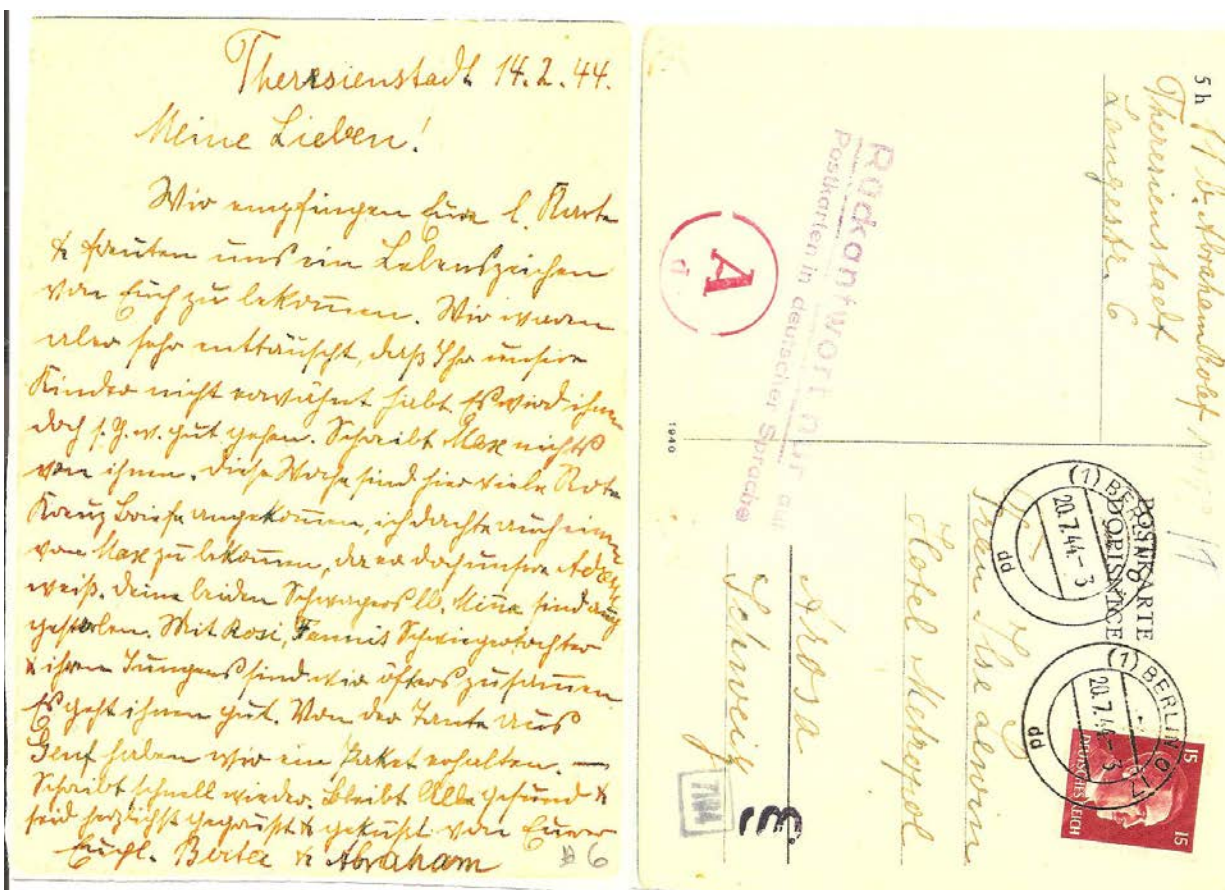
Item # 6 Postcard dated 2.14.1944

Return address and addressee as above. Postal date stamp "Berlin 7.20.1944".

Theresienstadt 2.14.1944

My dear ones,

We received your dear card and were delighted to have a sign of life from you. However, we were very surprised that you did not make any mention of our children. We do hope that thank G-d they are well. Doesn't Max write anything about them? A lot of Red Cross letters arrived here this week; I had thought there would be one from Max inasmuch as he does have our address. Both of your brothers-in-law, dear Mina, also passed away. We do get together frequently with Rosi, Fanni's daughter-in-law and her boys. They are well. We received a package from the aunt in Geneva. Do write soon again. Do keep well, all of you and receive our fond regards and kisses from Berta and Abraham



Item # 7 Postcard dated 6.21.1944

Return address and addressee as above. Postal date stamp "Berlin 8.31.1944"
Stamp: "Reply only with postcards in the German language via the Prague V Jewish council of elders (Ältestenrat der Juden in Prag V) Philipp de Monte Gasse 18."

Theresienstadt 6.21.1944

My dear ones.

Your dear card of 4.12 gave us much pleasure. By the same token, we are delighted with the small packages which keep arriving and for which we thank you very much. Do keep writing to us frequently even when you may not have mail from us. We are still working and are well. Unfortunately, we haven't had any news from dear Josef. The only one with whom we get together is Fannichen's (translator: Fanny's?) daughter-in-law and her two boys. They send their regards. Many good wishes, keep well and give our best to all our loved ones and receive many greetings and fondest kisses from your brother-in-law and uncle Abraham and your sister-in-law and aunt Berta



Item # 8 Postcard dated 7.15.1944

Return address and stamp as above.

Addressed to Mrs. Minna Kahn c/o Mr. Benusch Lewin AROSA (Switzerland) Hotel
Metropol

Postal date stamp BERLIN 8.31.1944

Theresienstadt 7.15.1944

My dear ones,

Yesterday, we received your dear card dated 2.1 and, although long overtaken, we were delighted to receive it. Hopefully you will also have received our mailings. Many, many thanks for the periodic shipments of sardines. We are well, thanks be to the Almighty, and trust the same is true as far as you are concerned. Mrs. Kanter is not here. We hope to hear from you soon about our dear ones. A thousand good wishes to all from us and accept our many regards and our kisses from your loving brother-in-law and Uncle Abraham and from your sister-in-law and Aunt Berta



Item # 9 Postcard dated 8.19.1944

Return address and addressee and stamps--all as above card #8.

Postal date stamp: BERLIN 9.28.1944

Theresienstadt 8.19.1944

My dear ones,

Even though we have not, in the interim, had any news from you, nevertheless I do wish to give you a sign of life from us. We are relatively well. Abraham is at the hospital at the present time but is to be well again soon. We trust that both you and our loved ones are well and you have good news from everyone. Did you hear anything from dear Josef? A thousand thanks to you and to dear Max for the packages, you won't believe how much delight they give us. Do write often, many regards to all of our loved ones and receive, as well as dear Ilse and family, a thousand good wishes and kisses from your loving Abraham and your sister-on-law Berta Rolef



ITEM # 10: returned envelope addressed to Germany (presumably by US Postal Service due to suspended mail service due to WWII hostilities)

