

MARBURG FAMILY COLLECTION, 1936-1945
2011.195.1

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TRANSLATIONS:

The following translations of a few of the letters within the Marburg family collection are housed within the supplementary materials of the collection.

Gennia Marburg

62 Oakley Street, London, S.W.3.

April 21st, 1941

My dear Lilitsuke,

I received your dear photos, many thanks—you're so pretty! I show them to everyone—I'm so proud—and I like your husband so much. I think he seems very, very pleasant and that I could be great friends with him. I like him very much, and I am happy that you have such a nice husband. Now I have also received the letter where you tell me that I've become an aunt! How happy you must be to have a child—oh, my God, if only I could see him, your little Yosef, and give him a thousand kisses from his aunt—does that sound good? I received your letter from our Muschinka. If only she knew that I can't write to her. I want to so much, but I can't—I hope she understands that and I hope she knows that I am well and that I think of her and Papa and Lise so, so much.

I left the hospital again. I had to leave because it was too much for me; my health hadn't been very good for a long time and now I've caught a rheumatism that is quite painful. My arms and my hands are all swollen (which isn't very pretty), so I had to leave. But I hope that my health will return soon and that I will find some work that's less strenuous than at the hospital. Don't say anything to our parents about my illness and don't worry yourself either, but all these things are reasons why I didn't respond sooner to your dear letter to thank you for the photos. I live in a room at 62 Oakley Street, London, S.W.3., and it's here you must send all your letters. The Reiss family has left their apartment; that's why I returned to Thurlse Court. There isn't much else to say about me. Don't be mad that this letter is so short: as soon as I have something nice to tell you, I will write a longer one. But I beg you, write to me right away—I so want a letter from you today, because I cannot see you, but at least you can write quickly. Tell me all about your husband and your baby and all.

All my love to you three,

I love you with all my heart,

your sister.

Marseille 5.2.41

My dear children!

Being in town, where I had to go today (5/2) because of the continuance of the permission for our stay in Marseille, I wanted to write you a quick note about the result. At the end of the waiting period, one must always present oneself to the central commissariat of the police, without being summoned there. There one receives either the invitation, already written and completely final, to leave Marseille in 4 days, or the message that the prefecture's decision hasn't yet arrived at the central commissariat of the police. This "hasn't yet arrived" is then attested on the form that was used the last time. With this attestation, one must return to the prefecture where one receives, because the decision from the prefecture "hasn't yet arrived" at the central police, a continuance of a fortnight, that is, 14 days. As you see, the procedure could be simpler. It seems to me that there has been some kind of incomprehensible indirection, of which the result is that we have another continuance of a fortnight, until May 16th. Today went as described above. But if the decision about our request had already arrived at the central police, and if I had accordingly gotten the 4 days, then your letter from the 25th and your telegram from the 30th would have been the greatest and most important of helps. It is quite possible that on May 16th the decision of the prefecture regarding a departure in 4 days will already have arrived at the central police. Regarding this likelihood, I ask you, my dear Elias, to send us those things again, the same way as you did this time. On May 16th I won't be able to use either your letter from the 25th or your telegram from the 30th. If I show, on May 16th, a telegram dispatched half a month before and intended to arrive in just a few days, it won't have a favorable effect. They would say that it hadn't arrived in just a few days. Please arrange it so I can receive your message, to be used as needed by the Marseille authorities, around the 12th of May. There is nothing new to report until this letter arrives. Please write and telegraph the same way as this time, but without mentioning the date of May 16th, because that could give the impression that your letter and telegram were sent in order to achieve a continuance.

Please don't be upset that my letter is so tedious. The content already is, and it must be worse considering it's written in French as bad as mine. At least we have something to laugh about [?].

We were very happy to learn from your unofficial letter that our authorization to go to Tetouan is already signed, and that our departure for Tangiers will also work out. Before our upcoming emigration, I must discuss my correspondence with your mother's relatives in America. I think that I mentioned to you previously that I had made an effort to obtain the address of Mr. Edgar Ausuit and his sister Leonore, who are both currently in the Americas. We have sent requests to find their address. A famous member of Joint [American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee] who is currently in Europe (he is American) as a delegate of the Joint has promised us that he will look into the itinerary and the address of those two [Mr. Ausuit and his sister]. A whole section of Joint in New York takes care of such research, and it is almost always successful, especially regarding a person as well-known, and with as many relations, as Mr. Ausuit. Mr. and Mrs. Thoru (the delegates) told us that the research takes several weeks, but that the requests and the responses are sent by airplane. Therefore we will either receive the addresses here or in Tangiers. We are convinced that Mr. Ausuit will keep his promises and that he

will send us an affidavit and the necessary means or money to get us somewhere and make a new life. First we look forward to the happiness of being able to visit you.

Today I took the opportunity of being in town to go to chez Caoc to learn about the trip, specifically regarding the route and the price to get to Tangiers. Naturally I will do everything I can so that the Hicem [Hebrew immigrant aid society] will pay you for this voyage. If one addresses the Hicem for something like this, one must present visas, or at least permission. At the moment, I have nothing in hand but your certificate of accommodation, your letters, and your telegrams. It would not be prudent to show these papers to the Hicem. I don't want to address it without the official papers, with which I can prove that I have the chance to go to Tangiers if Hicem pays for the voyage. Then it will pay. It will pay all of the largest expenses for such long voyages. But at the moment I must finish this letter and return to Madrague [a neighborhood in Marseille]. At least it said in your letter, my dear Elias, that you three are perfectly well. We haven't yet received the expected letter from Lily.

Much love,

Your father.

62 Oakley Street, S.W.3

London, 5.20.41

My dear Lilitschka,

I received your dear, sweet letter, but I was still sad that you hadn't gotten mine. I hope you've gotten it now. You have, right? In that letter, I told you I left the hospital because of the rheumatism that's returned. It's giving me a fair amount of pain. That's also the reason why I can't write you a very long letter today—because my hands are swollen and they hurt. But don't worry about it—it will pass, I hope. Don't say anything to our parents, but write me all about them! Oh, how nice it would be if they could join you! Dear, this letter is really only to tell you that I wish you all the happiness in the world for your birthday. You know, this letter will arrive too late, but that doesn't matter because I wish that all year 'round.

Write soon—I'm not too happy because of the rheumatism, and not working, and no money, etc. But it will all pass.

All my love and a thousand kisses,

Love,

Your sister

P.S. My love to your husband and to Josef

Letter to Lilly from her Mother (no date)

Says that today is Wednesday but that they did not get any news from Lilly. If the letter with the visa had come, they would have travelled through Spain directly to her. They will leave in two days for Marseille which is unoccupied and wait there until it comes.

Says she wants to know how Lilly and that baby are; whether she is breastfeeding him; adds that as an experienced mom, she knows that punctuality of feedings is the most important thing; if you nurse too often, then the baby hasn't digested yet and he'll get an upset stomach; what is my grandson's name? Says that a neighbor had a little girl and that each time the baby cries, she thinks of them. Says she is very anxious to meet her husband and the baby; says that Lilly did a good job; prays that God keeps them healthy and says they will only be happy when they are once again free and with Lilly; says she takes comfort in the hope that it will be soon. Love, Mother

PS from Lilly's Aunt Lisl

Says that it's amazing that Lilly is already a mother; begs her to write a detailed letter soon about her husband, her son, and her life.

Marseille, April 8 (year unknown)

Letter to Lilly from her Aunt Lisa

Aunt thanks her for her photo and says she is an adorable little Mother – compliments her on getting her figure back and comments on the elegant baby carriage; says she can't wait to meet Lilly's new husband; Says she won't believe that she will see them until she is on the ship and that she hopes that will be soon; Says that Lilly has probably heard of the sad developments there from her mother; that one of her friends was only three days away from leaving. Asks whether Lilly really keeps a kosher household; says she observed the kosher laws while she was living with Willy, even though she is not at all devout. Asks whether it's warm enough to swim in Tanger; Asks whether Lilly is looking forward to seeing her; Asks whether they are really feeling the war; asks whether Lilly gets the opportunity to speak German; says that she speaks French all the time, though not well, and that her English is better; says she continuously counts the days until they can board the ship; Says she hasn't encountered any good Jewish organizations; asks whether there are many immigrants in Tanger and whether they are doing well; Says that Lilly is one of the few German Jews who was fortunate enough to emigrate; says she never thought she would emigrate again; Says she knows Lilly is very busy but asks her to spare half an hour to send a detailed letter.