

# ***BLESSING'S LETTERS***

Letters sent to Inge Seligsohn, later Inge Lusk, from August 1939 to October 1945.

***Revised July 2021 following comments received from translators on the first version***

Inge Lusk, nee Seligsohn (literally 'Blessing's Son'), died at home in Caerleon, South Wales, in 1994. She left a collection of letters in German, received after she left her Jewish home in Hamburg to come to London to find work and safety. She herself never translated these, nor revealed them to her family. Most of the letters came from her parents, Paul and Paula Seligsohn, before they were deported from Hamburg in October 1941. Others are from Paula's younger brother Max or other friends, relatives and neighbours. Some were clear and could readily be translated. But most were written in a pre-war script that modern Germans do not read. In time, all these letters have been read and translated into English. We are eternally grateful for this labour to Anja Brisolla, Wiebke Lisner, Elfe Höller, Lore Bolhöfer and Brigitte Balkow and Ursula Eckelmann at Hamburg Suetterlinstube, a charity with a specialist ability to read the old script.

This version of the letters reflects numerous detailed comments from Brigitte Balkow and her colleague Ursula Eckelmann, from Susanne Rosendhal, and from Wiebke Lisner, on the text, the personalities and the historical context. Thank you again.

The letters are indexed by date using the notation YYMMDD. Where dates are unknown xx is substituted for the unknown date. In a few cases there is nothing to identify the date, so another identifying mark is used.

All letters are now translated into English, and appear below, with brief notes. They are arranged in date order as far as possible. Above each letter is a link to the scan of the original document.

Inge was an only child. Her father, Paul, was a Hamburg native from the Altona district, the oldest son of Hermann, who had a decorating business. He had a brother and two sisters. His younger brother Ludwig followed his father into the decorating business. Paul was an electrical engineer in Hamburg's Blohm und Voss shipyards, where he worked on the U-boats that fought in the first World War. Her mother, Paula, was the fourth of twelve children of Baruch and Jenny Katz of Guxhagen in south Germany. Baruch was a farmer and trader. The Katzes of Guxhagen were a large, prominent Jewish clan. Inge was among very few from this extended family to survive the Nazi project to deport and then exterminate Germany's long-standing Jewish community. She herself never fully knew the fate that overtook her parents. Inge died leaving four children and six grandchildren. Since then, three great-grandchildren have followed.

This complete edition of the letters is, first and foremost, for this family and those who may come later, that all may know from whence we come. It is also made available to others around the world who wish to preserve and understand the history of the historic crime perpetrated in the cause of Racism. Inge was a German, a daughter of Hamburg, who loved her city and the land of her birth, much as she despised those whose ideology had forced her into exile. She did not expect younger Germans to wish to know her story: the fate of the Jews, she was sure, would be forgotten as Germany closed the door on its past. I am deeply moved at how this turns out not to be so: a younger generation is determined to recover the memory of this disappeared German people, and to expose the full facts wherever they are to be found. To some of this generation we owe this translation. Thank you.

Inge arrived in England just a few days before the invasion of Poland that triggered war between her old and new homelands. During this brief interlude the airmail flew between London and Hamburg, carrying news of Inge's desperate unhappiness at her exploitation as a young, vulnerable housemaid. Her parents at home urge her to be patient and steadfast, while a large circle of friends and neighbours (many not Jewish) buzz around asking after the young woman's welfare. War interrupts the mail and after a few weeks they learn to communicate via Inge's uncle Max in Rotterdam. Inge has already escaped her first host and moved in with a rather less exploitive family of Russian Jews. The gentleman of this household visits Max and sends parcels of luxury foods to Hamburg, to the grateful delight of Paul and Paula. They know their child is unhappy and seeking some other future, which they think will come through her apparent 'intended', Werner, who is in Argentina on his way to join his family in Paraguay. Inge meanwhile, after just a few weeks in London, is learning of the likely fate of her people at home: is it true, she asks Max, that the German Jews will all be sent to Poland? So almost two years before the

deportation starts, the young Inge is hearing – presumably in Jewish circles in London – what is planned<sup>1</sup>. Max dismisses the idea that the Nazis would embark on such logistical adventure while still at war. The plan to cross the Atlantic to join Werner collapses – perhaps because a visa, for which Inge has started to pay, does not come; or maybe Werner is lukewarm; or maybe Inge sees a better option in the young man who spots her in his queue at Wembley post office. After just six months in England she, with Max's reluctant help, breaks the news to her startled parents: she has an English boyfriend, and, furthermore, plans to marry him as soon as possible. They are appalled: she is young, he is foreign, she hardly knows him and he is apparently not even Jewish, though it is not clear this most disturbing fact is actually disclosed. There is a war going on, and the young man is going to be fighting – why not wait until after that is over? Here we must remember how 'after that' appeared to the correspondents – few in Britain expected to win the war, and the millions of young conscripts knew war through their parents' eyes and did not expect to survive. Perhaps Inge now saw that as a German Jew in a defeated Britain she would not survive either: but as a British passport holder, wife or widow of a soldier, she might have a chance. Germans had no reason to doubt the Nazi promise of victory and a return to prosperous peace in three years or less, and the domestic Jews, though living with restrictions as second-class subjects, still managed to live reasonably well (for example, when Paula gets new dentures and spectacles), with no realisation of the full force of race-hatred soon to befall them. Inge's project to marry a British soldier must have seemed crazy. According to Otti, a Catholic family friend who stayed close to Inge after the war, the parents were persuaded to give the necessary consent (via the US consul) because they thought she was pregnant. Perhaps Otti, realizing the wisdom of Inge's plan, herself planted this idea in Paula's mind in order to secure her daughter's freedom.

After the fall of Rotterdam in May 1941, correspondence continues by two routes: it is possible to send short, formal notes through the Red Cross; and an enterprising international sleeping-car worker opens a P O Box service via Lisbon, through which Inge and her parents, along with large numbers of people all over Germany and the outside world, correspond. The German authorities eventually notice, and Paula ends up with a prison sentence for illegal correspondence, a punishment later commuted to a fine. We have two letters received by Inge by the Lisbon channel, and another two intercepted letters that Inge never saw. They are in the Hamburg state archives, discovered there by the researcher and writer Susanne Rosendahl. An appendix on this research follows the two 'illegal' letters.

After the Lisbon route closes there is only one more exchange, via the Red Cross, preserved by Inge's own copy. Paul and Paula were deported to Lodz, Poland, in October 1941, and died near there in April 1942, probably murdered in the Chelmno death camp.

Later there are two more letters. In 1944, with the end of the war and defeat for Germany now an assured prospect, her uncle David Rosenblatt – her father's brother-in-law - tells Inge that she can move to South Africa when the war is over. Then, soon after the end of the war, a letter comes from starving Berlin: uncle Willy, the 8<sup>th</sup> of the Katz children, was among the small number of Jews who survived living underground in the German capital, and is now serving the community of local survivors and returnees. But he thinks only three Katz children made it – himself and the two youngest, brother Ludi and sister Hannah. He is sorry not to bring Inge better news of her mother and father.

Much in the letters casts light on how Inge's thinking led her to the relationship with Denis to which we, the thirteen bearers of the Seligsohn DNA, owe our existence. Some of it, such as Willy's letter, is of historical and political interest. But above all we have a picture of the profound, anguished love flooding from the doomed parents in the small flat in Hamburg to their daughter. Here are the last words to Inge in Paula's handwriting, words she never saw but which lie still in the Hamburg state archives:

*I dream every night of you, oh would it come true soon*

James Paul Lusk (eldest son of Inge)  
[paul@lusk.org.uk](mailto:paul@lusk.org.uk)

**The copyright of these letters belongs to the descendants of Inge Herma Lusk.**

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<sup>1</sup> Wiebke Lisner suggests that this may have been prompted by the deportation of Jews of Polish origin in 1938

*This letter, dated 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1939, comes from Max Müller who signs himself 'uncle Max.'. It seems Max missed a family farewell event for Inge. Max is in hospital in a Hamburg suburb having had a stomach operation. This hospital, the Evangelical Hospital in Alsterdorf, was at the time under Nazi control. However they had not yet closed the hospital to Jews – this came a little later. The letter has a drawing of a squirrel. Max seems to be inviting Inge to meet him, without the knowledge of his wife. This meeting is to take place on 21<sup>st</sup>. Max gives directions for Inge to come on the no 28 tram.*

*Paula reports Max Müller's discharge from hospital in 390830. He later visits, recorded in 400222(2). Both times Paula refers to him as 'Mr Müller' - she does not acknowledge him as Inge's 'uncle Max'*

*The envelope is addressed to Herrn Paul Seligsohn, Electrotechniker, Hamburg. Additional notes at the foot of the envelope are:*

*Recht's der Hochbahn\*      am Schlump ? 68  
Schlump.                      Hinterhaus. Terasse*

*So it seems that Max knows Paul as an electrical engineer, is not sure of the address, but describes its location for posting. Max has a 'workshop.' So maybe the connection is through Paul's trade as an electrical engineer.*

*\*'Right of the elevated railway'*

### **18<sup>th</sup> August 1939**

At this time hospital Alsterdorf, "Men's ward"

To the farewell from home, Ohlsdorf in August, 18th

My dear good Inge,

In order to say some words to my dear little Inge, I will turn the paper again! Even though I don't feel high spirited, this time is running up. To give you some words on your way, I would like to talk to you for a little longer. Take this letter with the two myrtles and with this enclosed oak twig. A squirrel also wants to flirt with you. It will bring you luck and blessings on all your ways. Even though you are far away from home! There will always be some thinking about you, were ever you will walk. With trust in God and high spirit are you always fine in life.

yours uncle Max

My dear little Inge, with the dear parents, as much as it made me happy and I was looking forward to the upcoming Saturday. You probably will be unconsciously amazed when you get these lines, which I likely write here laying in bed. I am laying here since 27.7.39 evening at 9 o'clock, I was sent to hospital because of very dangerous stomach bleeding. It shouldn't happen and also should happen that I visited you the other time. Not too much time passed, still during my vacation I had to undergo an operation. This operation was very important and I got over with it pretty good/ I recovered pretty good except of the complications which might occur. Nevertheless I will be allowed leaving hospital on Wednesday or Thursday for ambulant treatment. Bless God it is time again ... Inge and my dear loved ones your card was sent to the store thank to my foreman, which made me happy. The very hour the mail arrived, I sat on a bench in our park. Eating is working alright, but always just little portions. And my wife will be happy, when I come back. Just this invitation is not of her business. You are my friends and always will be. It would make me happy for a thousand times when dear Inge would visit me for half an hour on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at lunch from 3 o'clock on. I would like to see her one more time. OK, my little mice, I wait for you. On the 28<sup>2</sup> follow direction Ohlsdorf till Sengelmannstraße on the left site is the hospital in the Alsterdorfer Anstalten. Ask the porter for the "Men's ward".

Dear good Inge, write a letter once a while. Use the address of the store. I will answer you. I am sad, I can't sit next to you today.

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<sup>2</sup> Tram line (thanks to Brigitte and Ursula for pointing this out, and for the identification of Max Müller).

*Inge has left home. This letter has notes from Gans, Lissi and C. Vettner. Mrs Gans is the Seligsohns' current lodger and Mrs Vettner is the next-door neighbour<sup>3</sup>. Many of the letters feature greetings from, and references to, Paula's circle of friends who are all keen on news about Inge. Then there are notes from Paul and Paula. Paul goes to the Synagogue – otherwise there are very few references to any sort of religious devotion by anyone connected with the family. Inge must have written already as there is news of unexpected expense (perhaps for a porter) in the final leg of the trip, between the town of Bremen and the port of Bremerhaven. Friedel and Margot, mentioned here and frequently after, remained lifetime friends of Inge's. They arrived in England ahead of Inge. Margot (born 8<sup>th</sup> March 1920) and her older sister Gerdi (born 12<sup>th</sup> November 1914) are the children of the Levinsons. who appear here and frequently afterwards in the letters. The girls emigrated to England on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1939. They both married: Margot became Mrs Alexander, and Gerdi Mrs Tagg. Margot's son Peter Alexander was born on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1944.<sup>4</sup>*

**Hamburg, August 23rd 1939**

[390823, 1 – 4]

Dear Inge, now that you are hardly gone away, you already get mail from us. Hoping you are reasonable, stay healthy and active. Always tell yourself "it had to be". Hopefully, you like your job. Your parents are very reasonable as well. Thank you for your greetings. How was the journey? Did you perhaps find one?? I have seen you the whole night in my mind because there was such a strong thunderstorm over here, one couldn't sleep. I have a new employment already, start tomorrow. Since your dear parents want to write to you as well, I will stop writing. Please, dear Inge be reasonable and stay healthy, then you can work. Eat enough in the morning and write to your dear parents as often as you can. You don't need to write me additionally, but don't forget to write to your parents. Today, be heartfelt kissed by your Gans.

[390823, 2 left]

My mother sends her love.

[390823, 2 in the middle]

My dear Inge, unfortunately I was 10 minutes late on Tuesday, I am happy that you are well. Today we are over at yours for coffee and now your mail arrives. Kind regards from your Lissi Gabriel

I also send you kind regards and hope you like it in England yours Arthur Gabriel<sup>5</sup>.

[390823, 2 upside down]

Heartfield greetings [from] Mrs. C. Vettner  
Do enjoy the plum pudding!

Hamburg, August 24th 1939

Dear Inge!

I'm happy that you arrived well and that Gerti picked you up. Wish you all the best. Greetings to my dear children and for today all the best greetings from my dear wife and me  
Levinson

My dearest beloved Ingelein

We are sitting together at the coffee table and got your card from far away. Mother is happy that everything worked out well. I am also very happy about your arrival. Wish you courage. Greetings to your friends and Dr. Uxxx xxx Bxxx whom I do not know.  
Fare well, be good, your loving Papi (daddy)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://agora.sub.uni-hamburg.de/subhh-adress/digbib/view?did=c1:648140&p=3388&z=100>

<sup>4</sup> Information from Susanne

<sup>5</sup> An Arthur Gabriel of Hamburg appears in the Memorial Book of Jewish victims of the Holocaust here: <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/en872405>

My dear sweet Inge.

Now all wrote already. I am all by myself now. Papi went to the Synagogue. Now I am not sad anymore since I know you've had a good arrival. With the help of God we will meet again. I am so sorry that you didn't have any more money. You said it is for free from Bremen to Bremerhaven. The luggage carrier was very expensive. Thank God now Mrs. Gans has another employment, but only probationary for 14 days, hopefully she can keep the job. When I came home, I saw you forgot your cape, on Saturday I will talk to Etta about it. I am looking forward to Saturday when Etta is coming. I think it was very nice that Gerti picked you up. Friedel must understand that you couldn't come with her. Now you have to work this morning already. Hopefully everything worked out well. Fritz wasn't here till now. You have got a letter from Margott, which I will enclose. Otherwise nothing new happened. I am looking forward to your letter. Heartfelt greetings and a dear kiss from your mother who is always thinking about you.

[390823, 1 upside down]

greetings to Gerti and Margott

### [390824](#)

*From Uncle Walter. There are several letters from this person. We are not sure who he is, but may be Walter Goldberg (see below on 390827) – if so his self-description as 'a masseur' is a puzzle. Inge's father Paul has a brother, Ludwig, who has a younger son, Walter, born in 1928, so too young to be the Uncle Walter writing this letter. No record of Ludwig's family appears in the letters and I do not recall Inge ever mentioning them. There are four biographies of this family on <https://www.stolpersteine-hamburg.de/en.php>.*

[390824, 1 + 2]

My dear little Inge-mousy!

As a masseur, because I don't have money for stamps now, I enclose this letter to the letter of your parents. I have read all your dear lines and also read about your different moods with interest. Firstly we are all very happy that you are there even we are all longing for you, secondly everything is not easy in the beginning and thirdly you are in the foreign country too short to be social orientated. But I don't doubt that you will feel home and will adjust to the situation in every way. I do know what you are missing, but you can't force it.

Anyway, I think it is very nice from Margot and Gerti that they take kind care of you and so compensate that you got the least fine job. If you are comfortable there, you might have the chance to change your job with help of the Jewish House<sup>6</sup>. But don't do anything in a hurry. Put a small advert in a Jewish London newspaper (of course not yet) and you have the choice to settle maybe in a German-Jewish house, but all this was not possible to be arranged from here.

I hope you are healthy. I have left Burschi at home at 8.30 and said: I have to go to aunt Paula and write to Aunt Inge! He told me I should send you a hearty kiss from him. He really took you to his heart. You don't think how hard it is to write here because your mother is always interrupting, Your Father can't speak because he writes himself. I am still not very well, I don't have the care I shouldn't have. If I just would be gone away with the boy. Comfort yourself, even not everything is looking fine, with your old uncle's destiny, who is unfortunately still too young and who is therefore suffering from fate even more. You can go to the movies, you have Margot – Gerti – Friedel, they all like you. Thank the Most High and always think about how awful it would be if you would be there all by yourself. There is so much diversion, friendly German words and affection.

Your dear parents are very brave and adjust wonderfully to their destiny that they were left alone. They are very happy about every line you write, if it is not too desolately. Inge little mouse stay brave and healthy. Greet Margot and Gerti even I don't know them. Tell Friedel I produce as much love as it takes it to send her hearty greetings and wish her all the best. And that is what I wish you with all my heart: All the best at home and outside at work and during spare time and for your whole future. Good night dear Inge my little mouse. Take heartfelt greetings from your uncle Walter who loves you dearly.

### [390827](#)

*(Sunday) Paul and Paula have just received Inge's letter from Watford, where she is now with Mrs Bryant at 67 Cassiobury Drive. Britain and Germany are still at peace and airmail seems to be rapid. Inge registered with the police in Watford on 29th August. Inge seems to have enjoyed the trip across to Southampton but now is not*

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<sup>6</sup> presumably Woburn House (translator's note)

happy in her employment or in the culture, and her parents try to reassure her that she would adjust. Paul writes that Walter Goldberg visited the previous day. Walter Goldberg<sup>7</sup> lived in the same building as the Seligsohns until 1926. Other references to 'Uncle Walter' in 391029 and 400320 show an address and a birthday which match the published details of this Walter Goldberg. Walter Goldberg had a young son (Ernst) at home at this time, who may be the 'Burschi' in the letter from 'uncle Walter' above ('Burschi' being an affectionate name for a young boy). However there is no evidence that Walter Goldberg was ever a 'masseur.' Walter Goldberg was deported to Lodz on the same transport as the Seligsohns in October 1941, and died there of ill health a short time before the death of the Seligsohns.

Paul (Pappa) also writes of visits to elderly friends or relatives in a care home. He sends greetings to Inge's friend Margot (already in England) and her sister. Paula's letter is incomplete. It refers to visits and trips out with friends including Mrs Gans. Paul says her dowry box and sewing machine will be sent on to her and Paula says she cannot now send the rain cape which Inge seems to have left behind.

This letter has the first of five mentions of Walter Blau ('Mr Dr Blau' here.) A Walter Blau, born 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1918, lived at Grindelallee 123, a short walk from the Seligsohns. He emigrated to England in May 1939.<sup>8</sup>

[390827, 1 - 3]

Hamburg, August 27th 1939

My dear little Inge!

Today, Sunday your letter from Watford arrived, we got your card and the letter of your arrival also and are very happy that everything worked out well till now. Thank you very much for your lines and mother is reassured since you reached the place you are supposed to be. By now you probably got our letter and from it you will learn that all our visitors at that day have written part of the letter. From your last letter from Watford I learned that you are not fond of the Madame, but be brave, one first has to get to know foreign people and you my dear child like I know you need to get used to your environment. The main thing is, when the will is there, you will get used to the work you have to do now.

It got relatively quiet here in the house. Yesterday Walter Goldberg was here with his Guschy [?] he sends his heartfelt greetings, he is sick because of his work he got a painful rheumatic inflammation. Yesterday evening Aunt Rosa and her Siedel were here, it was quite cosy.

If you are in possession of both, your dowry box and sewing machine, which will be sent from here, please let us know so that we are reassured. Yesterday, Saturday afternoon, Mutti and me were at the elderly house visiting father Kohn and also we had the opportunity to talk to Mrs. Brück. They all send you greetings and wish you all the best abroad. Mr. Dr. Blau also wanted to go by end of the last week, but unfortunately it didn't work out, he sends you heartfelt greetings and wishes you all the best. I do hope my dear child, you will write more satisfied in your next letter. You have to get used to the common politeness over there. It is tradition. Farewell my dear child and be heartfelt greeted and kissed a thousand times from Papi. Please give greetings to your friend Margot as well as her sister Gerdy. Best greetings to you, stay healthy yours Papi, who loves you.

My dear good Inge!

I was really happy about your dear letter. I hope you feel better now since you are in your home. Today Margott will have visited you and you will be in a better mood. Unfortunately, Etta wasn't here yesterday even Hedy wasn't here, tomorrow I will step by. Today I was in Ohlsdorf with Mrs. Gans. In aunt Lenchen's grave there were big holes and I gave notice in the office. They will fix it, that won't cost any money. The weather was beautiful. It is very warm the whole time. I am glad you had fun on board the ship. I can't send you the rain cape now. Today you would have thought lively about us

[continuation is missing]

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.stolpersteine-hamburg.de/en.php?&LANGUAGE=EN&MAIN\\_ID=7&BIO\\_ID=4350](https://www.stolpersteine-hamburg.de/en.php?&LANGUAGE=EN&MAIN_ID=7&BIO_ID=4350). (Many thanks to Brigitte and Ursula for making this connection.)

<sup>8</sup> Information from Susanne.

*The parents have received another letter with a rather happier note. They give her advice like buying her own soap if necessary (Mrs Bryant is miserly with this), not borrowing money and not going out with 'strange Gentlemen'. We have the usual greetings from a wide circle of friends. Mrs. Krellenberg, Mrs. Lindenberg and Mrs. Hampe are all identifiable as neighbours in the Garden house at no 52<sup>9</sup>. Paul has had, unusually, to help Paula with laundry. He encourages Inge to find confidence that she can cope in her new situation as she has in the past.*

[390830, 1 + 2]

Hamburg 30<sup>th</sup> August 1939

My beloved Inge!

Today, we got your loving letter and are glad that you are more satisfied now. Probably you got our second letter by now. Dear Inge, you have to be reasonable and settle in and you must give your best to satisfy your Lady, it has to be. Once you got the house clean, things will get better, if she doesn't buy soap, do it without, for your laundry buy your own. Always come home in time, later she will let you off for longer, Margot's Lady will talk with her about that. Please do not date with strange gentlemen, you have to consider you are in a foreign county and you are a stranger. You probably think I just blame you even by mail. I will send you moth powder as sample post. Etta sent a card, she would probably like to be in your place, she has a hard time. Hedy was here on Monday, she was in Ratzeburg and wanted to write you immediately. Tomorrow I will take the letter to Hedy. Today Mr. Müller was here, yesterday he was released from hospital, he sends you heartfelt greetings, he'll write to you himself. Here are no news, we are fine, it is the same situation like yours. How did the chicken turn out? Don't borrow money if it is that difficult to get it back. In the evenings learn English a lot and often study the cook book. Heartfelt greetings from Mrs. Krollenberg, Mrs. Lindenberg and Mrs. Hampe, of course from Mrs Vettner too. In the letter Mr. Levinsohn, Mrs. Vettner, [wrote too]. Otti wasn't here yet, comes on Saturday. Now I will close writing. Papi also wants to write. Today I had huge laundry. Now my dear Inge, be good and brave and stay healthy and be heartfelt greeted and kissed by your Mutti, who loves you. Herr Kasint sends greeting, family Lesheim too. Please give my greetings to Margott and Gerti. Mrs. Gans sends greetings.

Dear Ingelein!

Got your last letter thankfully and I am happy that you are well, just be careful you are not going to be a sourpuss, with so much crabbiness. You will get used to it as well as you will get used to the work and the interaction with your Madame, my dear child. You did such a good apprenticeship certification exam and finally managed to finish your work and forced yourself through and therefore you will find your way in your new occupation with God's help. Also you will now have the opportunity to talk to Miss Gerdy and she will brief you how you should behave in the future. In the beginning it is always hard, especially if one needs to readjust. Mother did huge laundry today on Wednesday and I had to help her which I did also as an unusual occupation, isn't it. Be brave and heartfelt greetings to your friends Margot and Miss Gerdy and hopefully you will write your letters in a good mood and with confidence. Farewell my child and be heartfelt greeted a thousand times. Kisses your Papi

[3908xx](#)

*This letter is undated but placed in August 1939. It seems to accompany a longer letter from Paul. Mrs Gans here signs herself 'Gosling'. Paula has a time-saving cooking tip for Inge who has been ill. We do not have the card from Gertrud.*

#### **Undated from Gosling and Mutti**

Dear Inge!

Send you heartfelt greetings. My time passed by since yesterday afternoon. I stood in front of the door at 4.30 with all my stuff. To the woman something awful happened. Looking for something new again. Hope you acclimate soon, every change is not easy for young and old. Be happy you are together with your friend again, so you can talk about everything. Give my greetings to Miss Margot. Hope the letters arrive in time, I am not forgetting, nobody should be fearful. Dear Inge, be rational, chin up, always light spirit and most of all I wish you health.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://agora.sub.uni-hamburg.de/subhh-adress/digbib/view?did=c1:648140&p=3388&z=100>.

Yours Gänschen (gosling)

Dear Inge, we are well and you will get used to everything. Adding soda to beans make vegetables soft more quickly. Do eat properly (enough). How is it with your illness. Do you take the pills? Gertrud wrote a card to you today, I will enclose it and wrote her you are already gone. You will be happy, dear Inge, you are already there. We still have your pictures, send them within the next letter. Daddy already did write everything therefore I close. I hope hearing good news from you soon, be heartfelt greeted and kissed from your mother, who is loving you, a good night kiss and to a soon reunion.

### 3908CV

*This card with quotation is from 'CV' (Mrs Vettner), a neighbour. It must have been sent with one of the above letter. It has some words of encouragement then quotations from Busch, a famous German poet, and Beethoven.*

Hamburg, August 1939

Dear Inge!

Being lucky – is the grace of fortune

Being happy is the art of mankind!

I have read these words when I was as old as you are now and these words kept its truth till today. In old faith C.V.

(Quotations overleaf):

No wisdom learned on earth can give us what a mother's word and a view can do. (Wilhelm Busch)

Who was happier than I, who could speak out the sweet Name "mother" and it was heard. (Beethoven)

### 390902

*A reply-paid postcard from Paula and 'Gans' (in English 'goose') dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1939 and postmarked from Hamburg on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the day that Britain declared war on Germany. The card is folded into two halves, the reply half being addressed to Paula with a blank area on the reverse for Inge to write her reply – never, of course sent.*

Hamburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1939

My dear Inge!

Hope you are fine, same for us. I hope we get mail from you today. If you are writing use just cards. Hope you still got the letter from 31<sup>st</sup> of August. Hedy and Walter Burschi were just here and send you greetings and also Mr. and Mrs. Levinson were here, they got Margot's letter. We got mail from Mondy from Wiesbaden. By the card one can tell he has got a quirk (flap). Send you the card by chance. Be brave and good. Heartfelt greetings and kisses from your mother, who is loving you.

Dear Inge!

Send you best greetings, also to your friends. Write as often as you can. I am still here. We are well. Sincere greetings from your Goose

Greetings to Margot and Gerdi

### 391024

from Paula, Paul and C.V.

*With Germany and Britain now at war, communication is taking place via Paula's brother, Uncle Max, who is in Rotterdam – the Netherlands being neutral territory until the Germans invaded in May 1940. This letter is addressed to Inge c/o Subkis at 3 Jesmond Court, Harrow. So Inge has now left Mrs Bryant's Watford house. The*



*envelope is marked 'this letter is written in Germany' but there is no sign of a censor's mark. Inge is no longer a domestic servant and may be thinking of becoming a nurse. There is much news of friends and relatives. Mrs Gans 'is not living here anymore' so was probably a lodger with the family - we know they kept a lodger in one of their three rooms as one way to make a living. Various relatives/friends (?) have gone to South America – among these is Werner, now in Buenos Aires on his way to join family in Paraguay. Inge is urged to write to Werner, who is seen as a potential fiancé. We hear again from 'C.V.' (Mrs Vettner) – the next-door neighbour, whose bell Paula rings to tell her a letter from Inge has arrived. The Kurt mentioned seems to be a young man with an interest in Inge. Walter Goldberg had a son Kurt who was a few months older than Inge; could this be him? Lothar is a cousin of Inge's age, see below 391029 and later in the final letter of 1945.*

[391024, 1 + 2]

Hamburg, October 24<sup>th</sup> 1939

My dear sweet Inge!

We have been very happy about your dear lines today and are very happy that you are well. Thank God, I can report we are all fine as well. I already put much effort in writing you. I wrote to Rotterdam to uncle Max, but it was probably due to your new address. I didn't hear something from uncle Max though. I promptly added some writing in the last letter to Margot. I also wrote your address to Lola Behrend. Did you hear something from her. We still didn't get your 2 letters, also L. Bauer wasn't here yet. On Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> you got mail from Kurt R. from Berlin, he wanted to meet you, you were supposed to go to Hartungstr. Didn't hear something from him again. Hugo was also here once. He had worked in a nursery in Paderborn. Bertel Abr. is engaged to a Werner Beif. I didn't talk to Etta yet, wrote her once and sent Walter to her, who was nearby, she wanted to visit us once, she probably still has an employment. Dear Inge, maybe it is nice to become a nurse, if you can do that, maybe you can find something else or is that difficult. Lothar from Recklinghausen is here in Blankenese, I visited him once, I thought he might come over, but till now he didn't. All relatives write good things. It is great you get along well with the daughter. Do you get together with L. Couldn't you do the work for the old lady. I am glad you gained some weight. Does Friedel hear something from her parents, we don't hear anything from them. Aunt Rosa, where I go often, did sew a new jacket-dress for me out of aunt Lenchen's dress. Mrs. Gans is not living here anymore, she drove us all nervous, she is living now at Gabriel's, who are annoyed already. Did you get your box? Maybe you can store it at L.'s. Be careful with everything, I am always thinking and caring for you my beloved Inge. Aunt Hedy and uncle Max Herrmann are in Chile. Goldschmieds stayed in B.A.. They might have rented a house over there and opened up guesthouse, they were more favoured by fortune than Lasers. Uncle Max and Herrmann should already be employed. Write to Werner, who is still in B.A. For today dear Inge I send you the most heartfelt greetings and dearly kisses from your mother who is always thinking about you.

Many greetings to Friedel Margot and Gerti and L.

Uncle Max's address is Rotterdam Teilingerstr. 60a

My dearest beloved Ingelein

we got your letter we longed for so much with joy and thank you very much. I learned from your letter that you are healthy and well, that is the most important. What you first wrote to us about employment will come to a good end, just be patient. I can tell you that we are in good health. Dear Ingelein, be always brave and chin up, there is no other way, we would help you, but I hope you will get along by yourself pretty good, make sure that you keep yourself busy but only on the right track. I hope the letter will find you my little daughter in best health and I wish you from all my heart the best of success for your upcoming profession. Of course, we were longing for you as well, so farewell, greet your friends and L<sup>10</sup> which I don't know and thank everybody for the good that they give you. Heartfelt greetings and kisses sends your Väterchen

Dear Inge!

Your mother just rings the bell at our place, Inge wrote, come over later. Now a few lines, every morning I come for coffee, we're healthy. The latest: Hans remarried on Saturday, a tailoress as well, Thea is also married. Your job, which you plan to do, is very nice, but not easy. My best regards your C.V.

[Maxfragment](#)

*This undated covering note may or may not fit here*

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<sup>10</sup> or S (Subkis)?

Dear Inge, yesterday I got your letter as well as one from Friedel, both I will forward. Enclosed I send you a couple of letters, you probably know to whom they belong.

Please give greetings to Friedel. Greetings and kisses from your uncle Max.

[391029](#)

*There are two letters here dated 29<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November 1939. The parents are worried that Inge needs to find a job and she has no winter coat. One letter is to Friedel, a close friend of Inge's. It is not clear who writes the letter 'from Geneve' (speculation - possibly sent via Red Cross?). Lothar mentioned here is the son of Paula's brother Willy and Hanna Katz (see the final letter of October 1945). Lothar was born in 1920 so is the same age as Inge. Werner appears in many letters as Inge's supposed prospective fiancé. He is now in Buenos Aires (B.A.)*

[391029, 1]

10/29/39

My dear good Inge!

Today Mrs. Levinson brought your dear Letter, and we are very pleased with it, especially that you dear Inge are well so far. You have been through all sorts of things with the old woman that has been foremost a big disappointment for you. We have written again to Walter Blau right away, meanwhile you will have received the letter.

You ask dear Inge whether we think of you that doesn't need a question, our thoughts are always with you, and I miss you very much. Dear Inge see if you can't get a job, maybe it will be better than becoming a nurse. I am glad that Margot was lucky again to get a nice job.

Does Friedel hear from her parents, we don't hear anything here, write about it. I had written Etta that she should come Sunday, but she didn't come, today she wrote a card that she wants to come on Sunday, and she will then write to you. From Aunt Hedy we had post too, on August 14th it was already written from Chile Santiago, she was very sick and they have gone through a lot. Werner is still in B. A. Now they will probably do better. With us one day passes like the other, when I have time we go out a lot and in the evening we sit alone, think of dear Inge, I'm reading now very often. Uncle Walter is fine, he now lives in Klosterallee. Otti was here recently too. Hedy Jana [?] are not coming. I'm thinking of visiting Hedy. I meet a lot with Aunt Rosa. Yesterday Lothar drove back to Recklinghausen, and will soon go to Erez. I am glad that you received the letter with the pictures, I had written more, didn't probably arrive.

Do you and Margot are still laughing often? Or not any more. Dear Inge you don't need to worry about us we are well thank God. We just hope that we'll see each other healthy again soon. Frau Vettner sends greetings to you. Be cordially greeted by us and kissed, and stay healthy and good Your always thinking of you

Mom.

Warmest greetings and kisses from your father. Continue to be upright exxxfig and hardworking and always have courage

[upside down]

You probably won't be able to buy a winter coat.

You'll probably manage anyway,

[on the left edge]

Greetings from Mr. and Mrs. Levinson, we meet very often

Many greetings to Margot and Gerti

[391029, 2]

Hamburg, November 6th, 39.

Dear Friedel. I hope you are in good health, the same from us too. I received the first mail from your dear parents last week, they are healthy, see to it that you can send some money, it's still the old address. Write to us too, enclose the post with Inge's. I hear good things from Ruth & Werner. Uncle Denny is still in Spain; stay in good health and write to us soon, your aunt Rosa.

Many greetings and all the best, Uncle Siegmund

For you dear Inge best regards, Uncle Siegmund & Aunt Rosa.

My dear sweet Inge!

Today we received your dear letter from Geneve and we were very happy about it, we also received the two letters from Walter Blau and from L. Bauer, and we are glad that you are in good health. You will also have got the letters from Walter and L. Bauer from us in the meantime, and have seen from them that we are well thank God. But you dear Inge have to brace yourself now a little, and think, there is no help for it, and you have to think that after this time will come another, with the help of God we'll see each other again, you just have to be brave so that you, dear child, may stay healthy.

Contact Lola, maybe she knows something for you, it will work out again for you someday so that you will find a good position. Yesterday Etta was with us, it was very nice, and we have thought and spoken of you a lot, she will write to you too. What did Mr L. say when you came to him?

Is he still cross with you. It is very nice that Miss Subkis is so nice to you. Have you ever been with Friedel at Wassermann's? I am still working dear Inge

[upside down]

Many greetings to Miss Subkis to Friedel Margot and Gerti. Mrs. Vettner all ask about you

Mrs. Gans and Otti say hello to everyone how you are

[391029, 3]

Walter and Buschi are fine, he visits very rarely, he works and has little time. I am a lot together with Aunt Rosa, apart from that it is very quiet here with us, we do not get so many visitors anymore, you my love are not here either. Wednesday I'll cook potato dumplings, Aunt Rosa is happy, I have promised her to bring some along. How often do you meet Friedel, and how does she like it in the hospital? Her parents also write desperately, may Friedel not even write to them occasionally. Did you buy yourself a raincoat? I will keep your cape well. Could you leave your box with L., just keep your things safe. You have enough clothes yet, you don't need to buy something. Can't you do something in your job. Alright dear Inge stay well-behaved healthy, then everything is easier to bear, and don't trouble us, with God's help you can soon sit on my lap again

Be very cordial and deeply kissed and only thinking of you mom

My beloved Ingelein

After we have already learned everything from you crabwise and we immediately tried to answer you immediately, my dear child, we are very surprised that you are still without an answer. I am fine. From your letters I have seen a lot, about the change of your position etc. You definitely have to pull yourself together, and always take fresh courage, then you my dear child will stand your ground, even in a foreign country, especially since you have your friends there too, see to it that you can occupy yourself with something. I can imagine that you are homesick, we think of you too, goodbye trust in God. Be dearly greeted

[on the left edge] and kissed a thousand times by your dear father my eyes are tolerably [good]

[on the right side] The address of Uncle Max Katz Rotterdam Teilingerstr. 60 a

[391116](#)

*Uncle Max writes this brief note from Rotterdam, enclosing mail from Hamburg. Inge is homesick; Max is frustrated that he cannot get other family members into the Netherlands. He asks Inge when she got to England and how.*

[391116, 1]

11/16/39

Max Katz  
Rotterdam  
Teilingerstr 60 a  
Dear Inge!

Hopefully you are fine, as I can say that about myself, only Aunt Henny and Rölfchen should be here. Unfortunately, I do not have an entry permit for them. Your parents send me this letter which I should send on to you. Since when are you there actually, and by whom did you get there. Your mother writes that you are homesick but that will pass in a while. Be glad that you are there, for D you don't have to be homesick. If you have post to be send to Germany, you can send it to me, by the way, you can also write me. By whom did you have sent mail to Hamburg until now. I will enclose 3 reply-coupons that I happen to have here. Otherwise nothing special but the warmest greetings and kisses your Uncle Max

[391122](#)

*Letters sent from Rotterdam are now numbered, presumably to assist Max and Inge read them in the order in which they were written. This one is no 4 – so the note of 16<sup>th</sup> November may have enclosed the 3 pages indexed as 391029 considered as 3 separate letters, referred to below as 'our 3 letters', or possibly a third letter is missing. Inge now seems settled c/o Subkis though not as happily as the parents would wish. There is a letter enclosed from Werner which we do not have. Father includes one of his aphorisms about the need for self-reliance: 'roast pigeons do not come to you.'*

[391122, 1]

Letter 4

Hamburg, 11/22/39

My beloved Inge!

I assume that our 3 letters have reached you, we have also received your 3 letters, we are very happy that you are well, and that you like it at Subkis, and all people are good to you, just do not go away until you found the right one, after all there is a committee where you can turn to. Lola B. had to leave her position as well, has another one already. Today we got the letter I enclose from Werner, what do you think about that. You can write to him right away. Bertel got married 14 days ago. I met Ms. Levinson today. I was about to go to her, she had the letter with her that she wanted to send to Margot. Gerdi, wrote a greeting for you too. Today Mrs. Harzberger was with us she fetched a picture of you u. sends you her best regards. Your pictures are used up soon. How about you sending us a picture, do you have a photo? I had a hat altered for me, it's very nice now. I assume that your longing calms down a bit once you get the letters. Take comfort in the others, you have Margot and Friedel there and we will meet again with God's help

[391122, 2]

All acquaintances ask about you and everyone sends their regards to you. I haven't spoken to Etta again. I haven't been to Hedy yet. Who else lives at L.? Does he go out with/date you sometimes? How often do you meet Friedel. I haven't met anyone here yet from your acquaintances.

So dear little kitten be nice and dear and well brave I hope your next letter will be written a little bit more joyfully so that I do not need to be so sad any longer. How does Friedel like it in the hospital? Otherwise I can only report good news from us thank God.

I hope the letter will find you dear Inge in the best of health

Receive very warm greetings and 1000 kisses

in love your mother

Greet Friedel Margot Gerdi heartily, many greetings to family Dr. Subkis.

My dearly beloved Ingelein

From your last letter I see that you are in good health. With your new task you have to come to terms for better or for worse especially in a foreign country, roast pigeons do not come to you, and you have to be completely dependent on your strength, you can only assert yourself in the world with courage and diligence and you will succeed in that too that's how I know you. We are healthwise doing well and there is no need to worry about us.

Your father greets you and kisses you a thousand times.

[upside down]

Your father made the dab, he is angry that I write that Mrs. Vettner sends her regards to you Mrs. Hunerge [?] also

[391128](#)

*The parents have put Werner and Inge in touch, confirming that Werner wants Inge to come. Paula is working, Paul is not. Inge is keen to recover her sewing machine. Paula refers to 'more letters' via three routes – so it seems there are three ways in which she is sending letters at this point. One of these conveyed a letter from Werner which we do not have.*

[391128, 1]

Letter No 5.

Hamburg, 11/28/39

My dear good Inge!

We received your dear letter and are very happy especially that you are doing well, and gain weight how much do you weigh now. You have probably received more letters in the meantime, one from Uncle Max one from L. Bauer, and another I wrote to Walter Blau on 22.11., which contains a letter from Werner from B.A. in which he wrote that he wants to send for you. I wrote Werner an airmail letter yesterday and sent your address. You will write him right away. Aunt Hedy started a tailoring shop in Chile, but they still have not got their things. Hermann works as a mechanic and as an interpreter in the evening. Your sewing machine is unfortunately still here. Dear Inge, to send us something is out of question, if I could have done, I had done it by now. Just keep everything together well. Why don't you learn the language anymore, that's very important. I am enclosing Hedy's letter, she put on weight at her face, looked very well. Käte P. also wrote, she is now employed in the Rothenbaumchaussee, comes here next week, and will write to you then. Otti also wrote you a letter, but I do not enclose it, you know what Otti is like, just write that you got it. Irma got engaged. I am glad that Margot has done well. Say Friedel she might enclose a letter to her parents with yours, we will

[391128, 2]

then hand it over. This week Aunt Rosa again got mail from Aunt Berta and wrote that they are doing well. But they don't hear anything from Friedel. I do not think it's nice from L., but now you can see again how the M. are, just be very careful with everything.

Maybe you will succeed in your job. With Papi, everything is still unchanged. I am still working. It is fine that you can sleep in your bed as you were used to it here. Therefore you always dream about here. Dear Inge do comfort you, the day will come, when we are together again, God willing. It is nice that you get along well with Miss Subkis, you are not so alone than. See to it that you keep practicing cooking. I am very pleased that the old lady was satisfied with you. So dear Inge be still quite well-behaved and be cordially and intimately kissed and greeted by

Your You loving Mother

Werner's Address B.A. Mondoza 2176

My dearly loved Ingelein!

I am very happy that you are well, and that you are gathering your things. Now at this time of year, just keep warm and be careful not to catch a cold. From me I can tell you my ear child that I am doing reasonably well, I too have a bad cold, and will work, when recovered. Goodbye, write to the mentioned address and be warmly greeted a thousand times and kissed by your you loving Dad

Mr & Mrs. Vettner send you their kind regards.

[391128, 1 upside down]

Aunt Rosa Uncle Siegmund send greetings. Greetings to Friedel Margot Gerdi

[391211](#)

*There seem to be doubts about whether Inge will stay c/o Subkis; the parents are worried that if she leaves she will be lonely. They continue to press the cause of Werner. There is a reference to the father of 'Max Katz', Juda Katz from Guxhagen (the Katzes of Guxhagen were a large clan). So this is not Paula's brother, who is the 'uncle Max' in Rotterdam. Their father was Baruch Katz. The Max Katz here was born in Guxhagen on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1920, and died in Berlin on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1941<sup>11</sup>. His father Juda was born in Guxhagen on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1886 and deported from Berlin to Auschwitz on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1943.<sup>12</sup> Thanks to Susanne Rosendahl for directing me to this information.*

[391211, 1]

Letter No 6.

11.12.39

My beloved sweet Inge

we have received your dear letters from 24.11. and 28.11. with great pleasure, and we are happy that you are well and healthy. I can tell the same from us, thank God. Your letter just arrived at Chanukka, and we miss you very much dear Inge, when we light the candles. It would be very nice if you could find something in your profession, but wouldn't it be better for you if you could keep living with Subkis, you could then pay for your rooms there. I am afraid if you live alone, that you'll feel so lonely again, I would also be much more reassured, if you stayed there. I don't find it nice from L., you can see the character once again, hopefully it gives you a lesson, and you will be a little more careful, just always hear what your mummy has said. Your sewing machine is still here. We also had mail from Werner, it was still from 5.10. he does not write some special. I sent Werners letter from Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> to Walti, have you got it, in which Werner writes, he wants you to come over as his bride. In the last letter he also greets Bertel, who has been married for a long time. We have written Werner an airmail letter also your address, and that Bertel is married. He will probably be surprised about it, he also asks if Kurt still writes to you, he does not meet him.

[391211, 2]

You would like to eat my dumplings now dear Inge, but otherwise you complained when I made some. Please do not send anything you can use everything yourself, you have very little of your own. I am not selling the raincoat yet. Buy an umbrella so you don't always get wet. Just always dress warm. Yesterday Levinson's were with us, we always read each other the letters of you, if you write so nicely we always have great joy, also a few tears fall with it. Margot Gerti should write to you what Leo should not know. Do your clothes still fit you. Irmgard Rosenblatt from America, who heard it from her parents from Erez, wrote that Uncle David died of pneumonia in Erez. I was very shocked about it, and it is horrible to lose one of the dear siblings so early. Do write to Aunt Hanna Feilmann Gotliebstr. 14 some times, Aunt Rosa was very pleased with Friedel's letter. Friedel should enclose a letter to the parents now. From Guxhagen Juda Katz, Max Katz' father was here, he told us a lot. Aunt Selma now lives with

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.stolpersteine-berlin.de/en/biografie/2370>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/en1087424>

Aunt Berta, upstairs in 3 rooms all together Aunt Otti drove to Gliwice her mother has died. I will invite Etti for one Christmas day Hedy encloses a letter with picture. from 28.11. you will probably still get. She looks very well now, getting a little thicker in her face. Käte P. wanted to come, she wasn't here yet. Otherwise I have not seen any of your acquaintances. Lola is also elsewhere now Gerti has been presented beautifully, and Margot probably is such a lucky bird that she always has it so good. Why is she away from the position? Now I don't know any more news.

[391211, 1 upside down left]

Be very cordial kissed and greeted my dear Ingelein by your always thinking of you mum Be quite well-behaved and good.

Werner's address

B.A. Mendozas 2176

[391211, 1 upside down center]

Levinson send greetings. Many greetings to Friedel Margot Gerti. We are glad that Friedel is doing well, just stick together

[391211, 1 upside down right]

Beloved Ingelein

the dear mother has told you all news, I am doing reasonably well, unfortunately cannot work yet. I wish you my dear child all the best. Continue to be nice & really brave greetings from your you loving father

[391211, 1 right edge]

Greetings to Friedelchen Margot - Lehvinter [?] and family Subkis. Farewell.

[391211, 2 right at the edge]

Many greetings Miss Subkis

[391211, 2 left at the edge]

1000000 warm regards and kisses your loving you Dad. Mother and I read a lot and are very educated.

[391224](#)

*Max writes. He is replying to two letters from Inge. She has asked about conditions for her parents – Max reassures her they are no worse off than any other Germans ‘they all have the same amount to eat.’ Then he responds to a question she has asked about the ‘relocation of the Jews to Poland.’ He thinks this is ‘more talk than real’ and that this would be a logistically demanding project – the ‘war will be over’ before that happens. He hears she ‘wants to be her own master’ – he warns against such overconfidence and trust in her new ‘friends’.*

*Inge is, obviously, asking questions of, and revealing things to, Max in Rotterdam that she could not say to her parents. She seems to have picked up rumours of planned deportations to Poland – almost two years before these began. She is worried about her parents. We may surmise that, living in the multi-national Jewish community in London, she has heard about the impending scale of the persecution of the German Jews. Perhaps now she realises that she has no future as a German, and she has begun to plot an alternative where she will be her own person, closer to her new friends – not her family, not German, perhaps not even Jewish.*

[391224, 1]

Rotterdam 24.12.39

Dear Inge!

I received your two letters and forwarded the post. These days I received the reply letters back by chance one day and send them to you. Aunt Berta<sup>13</sup> has sent an answer certificate and I enclose it. Am I right that Aunt Berta is the sister of my late mother, and Friedel therefore my cousin? Friedel must be 30 years old. As for the concerns about

your parents, you just have to think that everyone in Germany is no better off now. They all have the same amount to eat all and all try to muddle through. I will send them something in the next few days. Until now, I always had so much running about with Aunt Henny and Rölfchen's entry permit and I hope that it will succeed soon. And then I have to work all day, so that my time is limited. As for the relocation of the Jews to Poland, there is probably more talk than real, I do not believe in it yet, all this does not happen so quickly. By then the war is over. Your mother still has 6 siblings in Germany. Dear Inge you write: You want to be your own master. I think it is better if you are still living with good people, because you are still young, and you still have little life experience. And if you are in a bad way, all your "friends" will let you down. Because there are

[391224, 2]

hardly friends in life. You know the saying A friend in need is a friend indeed. If you need the "friends", then they will all retreat quietly. Because most of the time they don't have anything themselves. You must be grateful that the Fam. Subkis has taken you in, and if you can get a job and earn some money yourself, it is of course very nice and you can continue to stay with them.

I want to end now, because I still have a lot to write. Be most dearly kissed by your

Uncle Max

Greetings to Friedel

[391230](#)

*A letter from Otti with a note from the Levinsons with footnotes added by the translator. Otti was a regular visitor to our homes in Hull and Dover. She was a Catholic, known to us as Otti Stein, but was also Otti Kolodziej as a result of a very brief marriage. She was close to Inge's parents but was clearly considered somewhat mad. After the war she handled (possibly badly) Inge's claims for compensation from the Federal state (see the compensation court record). Later in life Inge wrote semi-fictionalised memoirs of her early life, some in the form of imagined 'letters to Otti.'*

[391230, 1]

30. XII 1939

My dear Inge! You will have learned from Mum that I have already written you a long letter, but she thought it more correct not to send it to you. So today I write again and hope that these lines will reach you definitely and in fact I wish you all the best for the New Year, but above all health and work. That I lost my dear mother at the 9th. XII, you have also learned from Paula. Yes, it was a hard blow to me. I had a lot of bad luck this year. On the 5th XI I lost my beautiful golden watch and yesterday I broke off my porcelain pivot tooth. I think for this year that's enough! Otherwise, nothing new has happened. I'm still in the office, thank God!

In Gliwice (I was there from the 9th to the 15th) all were very nice to me. My dear mother has done well, she has everything behind her; she has very much longed for the death, and I have only the one wish to follow her soon. – Well Ingelein, I hope that you have already settled in a bit. I have been here a few times and read all your letters. Hopefully this year will bring you closer to your goal and everything will go according to your wishes! With your parents you really don't need to worry; they have everything and today it tasted wonderful once again. New Year I will have lunch with your parents. There are potato dumplings! I am really looking forward to it. So, my dear Madelchen

[391230, 2]

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<sup>13</sup> Berta Rosenblatt



for today I will close. For my birthday I was very nice and richly presented again. Next time you will get a long letter with typewriter. So all everything good and beautiful wishes you your old Aunt Otti, who is currently heartbroken.

Dear Inge!

Thank you for your dear lines and I am glad to hear from you that you are doing well. Do all come healthy into the New Year. We are also healthy and cheerful. Greet Gerti & Margot from me and warm greetings to you yourself. We sit here with your dear parents and drink a little grog<sup>14</sup>

Levinson

Dear Inge! Your dear parents just visited us and now we brought them home. All the best for New Year's Eve. Thank you for your dear greetings and I reply the same cordially. Greetings to Gerti and Margot.

Mrs Levinson.

Now we're shikering<sup>15</sup> a little.

[39xxxx](#)

*A note from C.V. (the neighbour who appears often in these letters) and Paula, undated but is in the winter after her move to Subkis ('emigration background') so I place in late '39. This note is written on a scrap of paper with a rectangle at the top clipped away.*

[39xxxx, 1 + 2]

My dear Inge!

In the meantime it is winter over here, how is the weather over at yours? Probably moist and foggy, but you get used to everything. When our doorbell keeps ringing, it's your mother: "Inge has written, come over". Last week, there were three letters, two from you and one from Vera. Bahrs [?] did endure a lot but found an employment quickly. Your parents are very brave. Your last letters were pretty detailed and not so desolate. One needs to accept the unchangeable. You are still so young and you have an occupation with that you once will find your way. It's nice that you are staying with such a nice family with emigration background. Maybe it's possible to stay with them even if you have found a suitable job and you can pay their hospitality with gratitude. Today, I was in town, there are many beautiful goods, but not enough money. Please do continue your meeting with Friedel, Margot and G. It is good your parents are still here, it's so sad with Neukorns, to be so penniless abroad. My husband sends you greetings as well.  
Yours faithfully C.V.

How did you like it at Wassermann's? I am glad that you are staying with such a nice family. Do stay on familiar terms with them. Aunt Erna, Miss Brücke, Mrs. Lesheim send greetings to you, and also everybody in the house is asking about you and sends you greetings. Please send us a picture, don't you have a photograph and also a picture of Friedel, we'd be happy. Again a heartfelt kiss, your mother. Your father is busy tonight with reading.

[3912xx](#)

*Letter no 7 in the sequence sent via Rotterdam. Not dated but a reply to Inge's of 5<sup>th</sup> December so I've placed in December 1939. Inge is thinking about her future both with Werner and the Subkis household; Paul is anxious she does not leave herself lonely.*

[3912xx, 1 + 2]

No 7

My dear good Inge,

We have received your letter from 5<sup>th</sup> Dec with thanks and are glad that you are well, which thank God I can confirm for us. I hope your finger is well again. Today Ella was here, but unfortunately we were not at home, I

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<sup>14</sup> Grog - cf. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grog>

<sup>15</sup> shiker – cf. <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/schicker>

found a note in the letterbox saying that she wants to come again on Saturday, we'll then stay at home all day. She also wrote that she wrote to you. Did you get the letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov in which Hedy also wrote and enclosed a picture. You will have had some mail also from Uncle Max. Gerti was lucky to find employment right away. Did you spend the holidays<sup>16</sup> well? we spent them quietly and on days like this you are always in my mind. Well now, I hope all will work out well with Wernerle and hopefully with us to . What if hope didn't exist dear Inge? I haven't seen Uncle Walter for a quarter of a year, doesn't turn up, doesn't need us anymore. Just now we came from Aunt Rosa who send her regards to you and Friedel. We haven't heard anything from Aunt Berta. Here you've been worried about gaining weight, do you put on weight in your face. I would be very happy about a picture from you. I'm currently having enlarged a picture from you which Daddy will give me for my birthday. This time it took 3 weeks until we got your letter, we had waited for it each day. We probably got all your letters. Dear Inge, now I don't know what to write anymore, stay quite healthy and always be good and kind and brave. Kind regards to Margot Friedel Gerti and Miss Subkis from us.

Be greeted heartily and kissed 1000 times from your loving Mummy

My dearly beloved Inge darling.

I was happy about your letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, especially as you my child are well and healthy. Concerning your decision with regard to Werner we have nothing to say and you will know best what you want to do. We have written a dear letter to him, asking him to write to you himself in a more convenient way and hopefully he has written to you himself in the meantime. With us, one day goes by like the other and we go to bed early when we have nothing to read. My eyes are fine, when I take care of them and I do intend to work soon what will be the right thing. See to it, my child, that you can stay with the people, because in a foreign country alone in a room I cannot see you. Keep on being good and give my regards to your friends especially to your benefactor. Farewell, receive my regards and kisses your Daddy

Mrs Gans Mrs Vettner send you their regards

[391221](#)

*On 21<sup>st</sup> December 1939, Inge uses the facility of the Wembley Citizens Advice Bureau to send a Red Cross card to send a New Year greeting addressed to Paul. Inge adds a change of address is pending – the envelope of letter 400128 (below) goes to a new address at 1 Danes Court, Wembley Park. The card enables a reply from the addressee. The card is stamped 8<sup>th</sup> January 1940 and 30<sup>th</sup> January 1940 – maybe the dates received in Germany and then back in London. The reply comes from 'Seligsohn Levinson' – so presumably a joint reply making the maximum use of limited words allowed.*

From: Inge Seligsohn

3 Jesmond Court

Harrow Rd

Wembley

Via: The War Organisation of the British Red Cross and Order of St John

To: Comité International de la Croix Rouge, Genève, Prisoners of War, Wounded and Missing Department

Dated 21 December 1939, date stamped 8th January 1940 and 30<sup>th</sup> January 1940

All the warmest New Year greetings. Stay healthy. I have an endless longing. We're changing apartments. I'm healthy. Loving kisses.

To: Paul Seligsohn

Beim Schlump 52

Hamburg

Reply:

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<sup>16</sup> supposedly the Jewish holidays – cf.

<https://www.hebc.com/hebc/?year=1939&v=1&month=x&yt=G&nh=on&nx=on&vis=on&c=off>

Dear Inge!

We are healthy. We are pleased to know you are well. Margot Gerti lets us hear from you parents healthy.

Kisses,

Seligsohn Levinson

#### 4001xx

*An undated letter from the 'V' family replying to one from Inge enclosing a picture. I placed this letter in January 1940 from its wintertime reference<sup>17</sup>. The reference to the birthday, together with the presence of Edda (Etta?) suggest this may be written at the same time as 400117 (next).*

[4001xx, 1 + 2]

Dear Inge!

It is always a day of joy when your mail arrives. Your picture is very beautiful, the true Inge when she is laughing. Your father even got a kiss from your mom, we all have seen it. The picture got its place right under the clock. We got a wonderful winter landscape, when you see the children in the Sternschanzenanlagen, you want to be young again, sledging down the hill near the water tower. I am happy about you sometimes reading the Sayings<sup>18</sup> and paying heed to it. We all had to learn, now it is your turn with the art of cooking, it is interesting. No one is born a master. Last week I have been at Hans, I was walking across the Außenalster, the sun was shining, he is now living at Danziger street.

The birthday celebration was very nice, but unfortunately Edda had to leave early, she had another appointment (date). Your mom baked great Butterkuchen<sup>19</sup>, coming in 3 different styles, one could eat of it for hours. How is it about your art of bakery, you probably made some tries, since you have a sweet tooth. I'm having a cold, will go to Mrs. Dr. K soon. How does it happen that Margot changed her job, since everything was splendid, are you closer together now? But now good night, lots of hearty greetings your truthful family V.

#### 400117

*Paula has just celebrated her 51<sup>st</sup> birthday (she was born on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1889). She misses Inge's typical greeting: 'what's up, Paulinchen?' but a friend Etta has said this in Inge's place. Paul continues to urge Inge to adapt to and accept her situation, now 'housekeeper' in the Subkis home. They continue to urge contact between Inge and Werner.*

[400117, 1 + 2]

January 17<sup>th</sup> 1940

My dear sweet Inge darling!

We were very happy about your dear letter, and it arrived on 15<sup>th</sup>, so quite in time for the birthday and I thank you my beloved one for all your wishes may they all come true and if God will we shall meet again next year. We didn't get a reply from Werner to our airmail letter. I'll write to him this week per airmail. I thought that you might have got a mail from him, we wrote to him already on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. Perhaps you have heard from him in the meantime. Take good care of your employment, what you have, you know but what you'll get you don't know.

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<sup>17</sup> Außenalster – cf. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alster>. We do not know of a record of Lake Alster being frozen over in early 1940. But there is for January 1941. According to the Hamburg address records (available digitally) Hans Vettner (son of Mrs V?) lived in Rubenkamp in 1940 and at Danziger Straße 57 in 1941. A walk from Beim Schlump to the latter address would pass over the Alster, but not to the former. So could this letter have been sent in 1941 rather than 1940? If so it may have gone via Lisbon.

<sup>18</sup> Translator thinks this refers to the Book of Proverbs

<sup>19</sup> Butterkuchen – cf. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterkuchen>

Perhaps it will give you a bit more now that you are doing everything alone. Always look in the cookbook I gave you. You can follow it exactly. From Walti you will have heard in the meantime. He is always very happy with your letter, as you are always writing very nicely. I will go to Hedy and show her the letter. I'm now reading a book "Longing", and Papi is reading "Ancestors and grandchildren". I always get books from Ms. Behrend and Papi from Mr. Cohn. Longing goes well with both of us, isn't it, my darling. – Well, my birthday went quite well, all acquaintances and relatives have thought of it and each of them had a nice little something for me like perfume, chocolate, writing paper and from Papi the most beautiful: a picture of you in an enlargement which turned out very well and from Otti a frame for it and everybody has thought of you and spoke of you, how will Inge think of us here. Etta was here, 8 days before my birthday. Our saying came to my birthday and I told her that you always asked me "what's up Paulinchen?" And then I said "birthday" and this year nobody will ask me. Papi said he doesn't want to start until Wednesday what he has done, but I thought it's no longer worth. So, Etta came at my birthday with adorable cyclamen, I opened the door for her and there she stood cute in front of the door and said: "what's up with my Paulinchen today?" That was delightful of her, I flung my arms around her neck right away and kissed her and she has written to you, perhaps you have received the letter. From Aunt Selma I received a parcel with useful things, and they all kept asking about you. I wished dear Inge we could sit together as comfortably as usual. I am glad that you realize now how well you were at home. So dear Inge stay healthy and be good, write soon. A thousand kind regards and kisses from your Mutti who loves you.

My dearest beloved Ingelein!

I received your dear lines with joy and see that you are healthy so far. About the various bagatelles that you have experienced, my child, you have to defy yourself, especially in a foreign country, everything does not go as desired there as at home, you have to learn the hard way, don't get involved in private affairs, stay so long as possible at your patrons, especially as you now are assumed as housekeeper, but as you write a housewife are. We'll be writing to Werner by airmail this week. In my opinion, you will soon receive mail from him if your mail has not been lost. I'm so far well, and this year I'm noticing a lot more of the Rheumatism. Mutti's birthday we enjoyed appropriate to the situation, more or less all acquaintances were there; my present the enlargement of your photo was a great pleasure to Mutti. So, my child, think about every step you venture. You will have noticed that you are not at home with Mummy. Continue to be very good and honest. It greets and kisses you your Papi a thousand times.

Dear Inge! I'm happy that you are well, please give our regards to Gerti and Margot and tell them that we have received their letter of Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and we'll write within the next days. We are healthy and well. Kind regards to you and all. S. Levinson and wife

[41014](#)

*On 9<sup>th</sup> January Inge sends a Red Cross card home. It is date stamped 19<sup>th</sup> January out of UK (?) and 20<sup>th</sup> February back in. Inge's sender enquiry is addressed from 1 Danes Court Wembley (new address) but the reply envelope posted from the Red Cross in Geneva has a typed address to her old address at 3 Jessop Court. Inge wishes her mother happy birthday and says Inge has moved apartment. The reply reports on a letter from Dr Subkis and asks about correspondence with Werner.*

January 9<sup>th</sup> 1940 from Inge

DEAREST BELOVED MUMMY DARLING!

HAPPIEST BIRTHDAYWISHES

HEALTH, COURAGEOUS, REUNION SOON

TERRIFFIC LONGING MOVED APPARTMENT

I'M WELL. TENDEREST KISSES FOR YOU AND

PAPI DARLING!

Many thanks

for congratulation

I was very happy with it

had nice mail from Dr Subkis

did Werner write be reasonable

Regards Kiss  
Mama Papi

[400124](#)

*Mr Levinson and Paul have been making arrangements for the transport of Inge's sewing machine. Parents express continued hopes for Werner. This letter has the mark 430/15 and many letters after this have a similar mark. I think this must be a censor's mark.*

[400124, 1]

430/15

24/I.40

Dear Inge!

Today your father and I, we were at Gaertner & Co. concerning your machine. Now you have to go to Reyley & Co at 36 Bethnal Geen Str and ask for the Connosse-ments<sup>20</sup>, which were sent there at that time and send them to Neumann & Kettin, Amsterdam Spuistraat 219/221 for further promotion to Gaertner & Co, Hamburg Altstädterstr. 17. If there is no bill of lading, they should confirm you that they are not in possession of the papers and do send this letter to your father. Warm Greetings

Levinson

[400124, 2]

Dear Inge! I am glad that you are very well are and can stay in your position. Please give the letter to Margot or Gerti. All the best, best regards Mrs. Levinson

Kind regards, hope you are well Levinson.

Dear Inge, today I have written to Werner by airmail, maybe you have received mail from Werner already. Today I got new glasses, such a frame as yours, the same glass, as I am not allowed to wear stronger glasses. I went to the dentist too. Warm greetings and kisses from your Mutti and Papi  
Best regards to Margott Gerdi Friedel

Dear Max, please give Inge the letter We haven't received your package yet  
Warm regards and kisses Your Paula

[400128](#)

*Mother and father write. 'H.S.' must be Herr Subkis. They have received New Year message on '26.11' – is this a mistake, was it intended to be '26.1'? Inge has moved. There is much expectation around Werner. Paula talks to a picture of Inge and tells it all her news, for 'we always told each other everything.'*

[400128, 1]

Letter 9.

28.1.40

My dear sweet Inge!

We have received your dear letter of 11.1. with great joy, and it is always our only joy your dear letters, especially that you are doing quite well, and are healthy, what I can tell about us also praise God. We received your wishes for the New Year not until 26.11 and we thank you very much for it. I am looking forward to receive a picture of

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<sup>20</sup> bill of lading – cf. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill\\_of\\_lading](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_of_lading)

you. I thank you very much for your birthday wishes dear Schnuppi, may all your wishes come true quite soon. You have been very busy with your move, a pity that I could not see it, has H. S. seen it also. I find it very cute that you always like your food It would be better if also H. S. would like it. Anyway, dear Inge you have to do without having everything nice. Once you're with the dear Wernerle you'll have it nice too, he's a good boy. We wrote by airmail, I wanted to wait but Papi thinks Inge would like it. I think I'll get mail from Wernele soon. We got the surprise, were all nice things for us, did you also contribute anything, or Uncle Max alone? Anyway, we thank you very much for that. It's very nice that you have heating now. Is the daughter still visiting you, what kind of man is that? Today Mr. and Mrs. Levinson were here and Aunt Rosa Uncle Siegmund, all send their greetings to you, also to Friedel from Aunt and Uncle, Friedel can add some lines for Lippmann's. Etta wants to come on Saturday and stay here overnight, then Aunt Otti comes also. Etta is a most adorable girl, she will write to you and I'll enclose it. Hopefully everything works out quite well with B. A. and we'll all see each other healthy again with God's help. On Feb. 7, I go to the cinema with Mrs. Levinson,

[400128, 2]

the two gentlemen go a day later. I haven't seen Hedy yet, will go to her soon. Margot's people are very nice that they gave you something and invited you. How does Friedel like it as a nurse, is it very difficult for her. Has she ever receive mail from her parents? U.M.<sup>21</sup> will give you Letter 8. Aunt Selma wrote to me that Aunt Henny is expecting a baby. I'm now closing so that Papi can also write something, he always avoids it. I have your picture hanging in the kitchen, but a small one of course, and I tell you everything that happened during the day you would be happy about that, we always told each other everything. Papi always laughs at me.

I shall greet you and Friedel from Miss Heilbut.

So dear Inge stay healthy and always well-behaved and nice. Many warm greetings and a thousand dear kisses from your Mum who loves you  
Greetings to Margot & Gerti.

My dearest beloved good Ingelein!

I was very pleased with your letter, and I am very happy that you are well, and that you are more satisfied than you were at first, with us it's the same as always, and are happy when someone comes to visit. I often meet Mr Levinson and we have now become good friends. Your dear Mum now also received 1 new ultra-modern good glasses pretty big, and has to get used to it, also I will make sure that the dear mother gets dentures, so quite fine. If the weather stays that way, the ladies will possibly make a trip to Harburg. They get young again, and I run errands every day that I have to make, and the evening before we go to bed, I have to fill the hot water bottles. So we are doing well, and don't worry my child, I'm happy that you correspond with Wernele and only trust in him, Vera will deal with the rest there. fare well and be warmly greeted and warmly kissed by your Papi who loves you

[400128, 1 upside down]

Greetings from Mrs. V. Lisa Matias sends regards greetings to Friedel

[400209](#)

*Letter from Paula to Inge with a birthday note to Margot. Likewise from Paul who says they have not heard from Inge for some time – odd as Paula's letter seems to be responding to recent news. Perhaps even this is felt to be a bit out of date? From the reference to Margot's parents, she seems to be the daughter of the Levinsons.*

[400219, 1]

Letter No. 10

19.2.40

My beloved Inge!

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<sup>21</sup> Uncle Max

We have received with great pleasure your dear letter that you wrote together with Lola, especially that you are doing very well thank God, I can also report good things about us, our health is good thank God. It's easy now when Mr. S. is travelling. Well, he'll probably be back again. I think it's nice of Lola that she visited you. When she comes again sometimes give her my regards. I think it is cute of you that you are already so capable as a housewife, I think it's fun when you have everything beautiful. How far is Friedel in the hospital, has she not flirted yet with a physician? Did she hear something from her parents, we haven't for a long time. Uncle Denny has now arrived well at Gerda's, he was even 14 days with Vera, wrote quite happily, and finds his happiness indescribable to have seen all children, they all are doing very well there. Did you hear from Werner again? We haven't heard yet. Do write to Aunt Hanna Gottliebstr. 14. Today we had mail from Aunt Selma they all send their regards. It is fine that you have heating now, so all rooms are always nicely warm. Our flowers in the room are all frozen to death, that comes from the fact that I don't heat the room, but it doesn't matter. Never mind. The main thing is that we soon meet again healthy with God's help. Last week I was in the cinema with Mrs. Levinson it was very nice, I met Anita Meyer there she comes along very well, still has her job, and would like to be with you, also Etta feels like that, she has not been here yet.

[400219, 2]

Saturday Aunt Otti and Mrs. Gabriel were here, all send their regards, and all are interested in your letters. Everyone finds your picture very nice, when do I get the promised one? Dear Inge be very careful with everything at every turn what you are doing, because you know my love you are our only hope and happiness. I hope to receive mail from you these days.

So dear Inge stay healthy and keep being happy  
warmest greetings and a thousand kisses from

your mother

Dear Margot on your birthday I send you the very best congratulations and wish you all the best and health. may all your wishes come true. On your birthday Inge will probably be with you, celebrate quite nicely and happily, we will be with you in our thoughts. Mrs. Seligsohn sends you warm greetings for you and Gerti and Friedel

My most beloved Ingelein

We haven't heard from you, dear child, now for a long time. I assume that you are healthy, which I can also report from me, except for my rheumatism, which makes itself noticeable in winter. Now a few months have passed that we are alone. Do write about Fridel. Farewell, and keep being brave as we do and be warmly greeted and kissed by your Papi

Convey the warmest congratulations to Miss Margot for her upcoming birthday. I wish her the very best from the bottom of my heart. We often meet her parents.

[400221](#)

*There are three letters here from Paul to Dr Subkis. Paul adopts a large, formal copperplate hand in writing to Dr Subkis. The letters are dated 21st, 22nd and 29th February. The one of 22nd February has a censor's pencil mark 1045/19. This is on the reverse side of the letter of 21st. In the second letter dated 22nd February 1940, Paul thanks Dr Subkis for a postcard announcing the second parcel. In the third letter he thanks him for the second parcel.*

21st February 1940

We thank you very much for your very kind letter as well as the nice package which you have sent us on behalf of our daughter Inge. Before all it made us happy that you are satisfied with our dear daughter Inge, as one has to take well into consideration that to our Inge everything is new and there are different ethics and customs in every country. Our Inge is well aware that pickles down grow on trees and marinade herring is not caught in the sea and do we hope that you will remain benevolent towards our beloved child. Also one has to be well aware that

these young people suddenly stand totally alone and missing their parents' protecting hand. Furthermore we were glad to know, that you have visited our brother in law and brother, from which you could gather our Inge's derival. Thus we have now got to know each other by letter. We wish you dear Herr Doctor all the best and remain thanking you once again.

Respectfully yours

Paul Seligsohn & Frau

*The third letter reads:*

February 29th, 1940

Dear Mr. Doctor!

In accordance with your wishes, we confirm receipt of your dear 2nd package with thanks, which contained 1 pound Coffee, 2 little tins of sardines and 1 small anchovy paste. We hope that you, dear Mr. Doctor, have arrived there healthy and cheerful again and have met everything there in the best order. We are doing well and we hope that our beloved daughter is again in good health. Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks for everything and ask you to send our most warm greetings to our Inge and be well greeted yourself

Your devoted

Paul Seligsohn & Wife

[400222](#)

*Marked letter no 11 with censor's mark 7045/19. Letters from Paula to Inge and Max; note from Paul to Max and then to Inge; line from CV. Paula was a professional cook but Inge clearly lacked her skills when she came to England. Paula continues to urge her to develop this ability. Max and Henny are separated as Henny could not get an entry permit for her to join him in Rotterdam (see 391116, 391224).*

[400222, 1]

No 11.                      22/2.1940

My beloved sweet Inge!

With great joy we received your dear letter, which you wrote with Lola, [and are particularly happy] that you are doing quite well, which I also can report from us thank God. I have also thankfully received your congratulations although after 5 weeks only, I think it's nice that you take every opportunity and write to us. I certainly thought I had some mail from you again: No 8. is on 17.1 submitted No. 9. on 28.1. No. 10. on 14.2. which you'll get from Margot. [From] Uncle Max and Walti you have probably also received greetings. Today we received the postcard from Dr. if we had known that he would stay there for so long we would have written right away. The first one we received, and everything is very nice, and we thank you dear Inge very cordially, hopefully you didn't spend so much dear Inge. I'll save some of it until Pesach, it won't be until April 25<sup>th</sup>.

What do you have done all the time you were alone, probably had a lot of boredom, I hope you haven't gone out a lot, some nights I lie awake for a very long time and just think of you dear Inge, whether you are always well-behaved and always think of us, because you are our only hope and comfort. Friedel's parents have also written this week, that they haven't heard from her for 2 months, doesn't Friedel ever write? Listen dear Inge Lotti Laser died this week, that's very sad for the parents. Papi was at the funeral, where he met Lisa Mathias sends greetings to you and Rudi too, anyway, everyone is always asking about you and send their regards, you are still the main person here. Have you had mail from Werner again, we don't hear anything from him. Hopefully you go on making such good progress in cooking and baking, that you follow in my footsteps soon. Did Mr. Dr. scold you sometimes? It's nice that you put on weight, we look forward

[400222, 2]



to a picture from you. Etta hasn't been here, it seems that she always seems to be very drawn. Mrs. Gans sends greetings, I was invited at her place for a coffee last week. Uncle Walter was also here sends greetings, he will marry soon again also a divorced woman with 2 children, 1 is near you, a woman named Butelski you know her too. Papi nibbles all day Salty liquorice<sup>22</sup> and thinks of you, you do like them too. Today you're gone away for half a year. Mr. Müller was here sends greetings. On Saturday, I want to bake a fine crumb<sup>23</sup> cake, then Mr. and Mrs. Levinson and Mrs. Ver [?] will come and we'll make ourselves comfortable and think of you. So dear Inge I want to close for today and I hope to have a message from you soon.

Be warmly greeted and kissed by your Mum who loves you

Dear Max! Thank you for the dear postcard, [I'm glad] especially that you are doing well. It is very sad, that it didn't work out with Henny, but with Willy she is in good hands, that must be a reassurance for you. I think the siblings should know about David. Hopefully dear Henny gets a little girl. Please let Inge know before long. Warm greetings and kisses from

your Paula

Also thank you dear brother-in-law for your efforts Hopefully all will go well, and I hope that your relatives are fine, please don't make Ingelein wait too long. Greetings from your brother-in-law Paul

Dear Ingelein

to you my dear child I say my heartfelt thanks for what has been sent at your instigation. I am feeling a little better again, and I hope you are fine stay healthy, and be warmly welcomed & xxxtimes kissed your Papi

[400222, 1 right edge]

Cordial greeting to our little rascal of whom we talk daily C V

[400222Otti](#)

*From Otti, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1940. Censor's mark 1045/19*

My dear little Inge! Today I am at your parents' (the ink is dripping, I'll better take a pencil) now I've got a new pen. So here everything continues the same way. Now, some news which you will be interesting for you and you will like! On 1st February I shall move back to Mrs Dr Kleemann into Johnsallee. A perspective for me, for here I was very unhappy! I only go home to sleep, as I can't bare the people anymore! So you will understand, how happy I am about it. Mrs Dr had invited me and when I was about to go home she said to me: "Mrs St. you don't feel well there, don't you want to move in with me again." I'm going to get my old room downstairs with veranda, all newly decorated. The housemaid will do my room and I won't have to do anything. I have the impression that this horrible flat brought me a lot of misfortune. Well, you didn't like the old crow either. Imagine, she didn't even console me on the occasion of my dear mother's death. That speaks for itself! Anyway, I haven't talked to either mother or daughter since September. So you can figure out how I felt.

- 2-

So when you will receive this letter I'll be happier again! I really was so depressed! You asked for Winni. Of course we are still good friends. He is a good chap. He will help me move on Thursday. I won't go into the office and have a nice cup of coffee with Mrs Dr. Her mother is such a charming old lady whom I like very much, too. I'm convinced that all will get better then. Well, I hope your thing with B.A. will work out soon. Werner is a good boy and you will surely be well off with him. Kurt will be stunned!- Paulinchen's birthday was fine. Edda was there, too, she is a charming girl. I like her very much. Now my little girl, I'll come to an end. Tomorrow your mummy will write to you. As soon as I come back here, I'll send you a long letter typed on the machine for my handwriting is about "just as beautiful" as yours. So all the best and love from your old Tante Otti

Also from Dani (?) kind regards. - More next time!

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<sup>22</sup> Salmis: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salty\\_liquorice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salty_liquorice). Salmis were a favourite with Inge and myself when brought or sent from Hamburg.

<sup>23</sup> Streuselkuchen – cf. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streuselkuchen>

400301

*Inge has revealed that she has a boyfriend – the first mention of James Denis, my father. This does not please her parents. But she has also apparently received mail from Werner – though perhaps not all she hoped for? - and has been attending the consulate (Argentinian?) and making regular payments (for her visa?)*

[400301, 1]

No. 12.

1. 3. 40

My beloved Inge!

We have received your very dear letter dated 8.2. with great pleasure especially since it took a little longer this time. Hopefully my dear child you are all right again. Even I stayed in bed for 2 days this week with a cold, but I am fine again, praise God. Of course I have always only thought of you, and when we will probably be together again. You have already written that you received post from Werner and that you paid a weekly salary at the consulate, but you have not yet progressed. Haven't you heard from Werner yet? We hear nothing from Lasers. It's very nice that Margot and Friedel visit you often, and you make yourself comfortable. Hopefully everything will continue to be so well, even if the others come back, at least you don't have to keep in [follow?] with the daughter. You should be able to stay there. Dear Inge, you know, it does not suit me at all that you have got yourself a boyfriend, I think you wanted to stay faithful to Werner. Levinson's and us are already making plans if only we can drive to B.A. together. I now have very modern glasses. I'll get my missing teeth now too, I have also become slim, that probably comes from thinking of you with great concern. Etta hasn't been here yet. Family Pepper were here after a long time, send greetings, all acquaintances from here and hereabout always ask for you, send their greetings. Mr. Voss<sup>24</sup> also died, also Mrs. Grot died, they were very sick for a long time. It was very nice from Mr. Dr. that he sent us some more coffee, if I had known, then I would have written straight away regarding a chicken. So, dear Inge more in the next letter, just be always very good and kind, don't cause me concern. All the best and a thousand warm kisses and greetings from your mother

My dear Max, also for you warm greetings and kisses, now the little girl will be born and both will be fine where is Henny? because I think with Willy. thanks for the letter from your Paula

[400301, 1 upside down]

There are still 3 letters left to receive Mrs. V. sends greetings to M. F. G.

[400301, 2]

Dear Inge. We are sitting comfortably in the kitchen and so I have the opportunity to send you a few lines. I have been very pleased about your letters and congratulate you on your progress in the household how pride your parents can be now. Now, dear Inge I wish you all the best and above all that we can still spend happy hours together again. Tomorrow I'll go to drink coffee with your mother. For today be warmly greeted and kissed by your Lissy Gabriel. My Pappi is in the hospital

My dearly loved Ingelein

I am also happy, whenever a letter arrives from which it can be seen that you and your dear friends are doing quite well, just greet all. Hopefully you are completely healthy again by now, and I am also of the opinion like Mutti, do not make yourself too many friends abroad, that is not appropriate, but hopefully you will know how far you may go, or is it more of a passing acquaintance. Mum was at home for a few days too, I looked after her well and did everything I could. Currently, Mum is getting a denture, even modern glasses she has. Please write again how far you, my dear child, stand with the consulate there! Mummy and I feel better again, and we think about you just as much like you my Ingelein about us, but one can ease ones fate a lot with patience and courage. We're pleased that Friedel is happy, especially since she has settled in well as a nurse, also that your friends like Margot

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<sup>24</sup> A neighbour at no 52

& XXX Gerdy visit you, and you spend some good hours. I get together a lot with Mr. Levinson and we became good friends during this time. Mrs. Levinson also comes often, or vice versa we go there, especially when mail comes from the dear children. Last Sunday we had a lot of visitors. Due to the parcel we had a nice afternoon and we all thought vividly of you. Family Pepper<sup>25</sup> from Osdorf as well as Gabriel, Mrs. Siegmund Lippmann, Aunt Rosa, our neighbour were here it was very nice. For today I really don't know anything more to report, and I want to wish things continue to go quite well, and so I want to close this letter in the hope that this letter will find you in good health! Be sincerely and warmly greeted and xxx kissed by your father. Write quite soon again!

#### 400303

*Max writes – she has revealed much more to him than to her parents, and he knows she is eager to be married to her new boyfriend. Max suggests she wait until after the war. He is working on possible emigration routes, but without a great deal of hope. Subkis has visited him.*

[400303, 1]

Rotterdam, 3.3.40

Dear Inge!

I have received your various dear letters and I am glad that you are still fine. I would have written to you earlier, but I often had an awful lot to do with mailing, and so I mainly take first what needs to be sent, something like that, like your eager to get married letter, although that too is not in such a hurry. Dear Inge, it's not that easy to get married so head over heels. Yes, if you would have known the gentleman for a year or more it would be something else. But you only know him a few weeks, and you can't know someone in such a short time. Besides, he isn't go out of the world when he has to go to the army, and yet I hope the best for him that he will

[400303, 2]

come back and then you can think about everything unhurriedly. By the way, you're still too young to think about it all calmly. If someone is a little older, you see everything with different eyes. You have to see what your parents write about it. I can not tell them anything about it, they have to know themselves. I was very happy about the visit of Mr. Subkies and he is a very nice gentleman, and I believe that with him you are in good hands and you have to stick to it. Dear Inge, I now have a lot of worries and work because of my loved ones. My second application has been rejected and I want to see that they can go to the USA, which is also very difficult and tedious. Please tell Friedel that I haven't got around to it to write to her and greet her please. I will soon catch up. It greets and kisses

Your loving Uncle Max

[400303, 1, upside down, right]

Just ask someone who knows whether Germans can still immigrate to Australia. My application runs for over a year

[400303, 1 upside down, left]

I think you can find out about that at the Woobernhaus<sup>26</sup>.

#### 400305

*Paul writes in his elegant copperplate to thank Subkis for a package – presumably brought to Max on his visit.*

Censors mark 2169/9

5<sup>th</sup> March 1940

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<sup>25</sup> Pepper was the name of a work colleague of Paul's who was blinded in an accident in the shipyard. I was told that Paul saved his life. I was taken to meet Pepper.

<sup>26</sup> London, Woburn House, Jewish Refugee Relief – cp. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYJXdW7PHFM>

Dear Herr Doktor!

It was with great pleasure that we received your kind package N° III today, with same contents as the 1<sup>st</sup> package, for which we are most grateful, dear Herr Doktor. We hope that you are well and that our beloved daughter will pay you back so that you will continue to be satisfied with her work. We kindly hope to hear of your welfare and send you thanking you once again very much with many kind regards

Yours humbly

Paul Seligsohn and wife

[400306](#)

*Parents and one other (Mrs Vettner?) write. They are impressed with the gift and Dr Subkis' concern.*

2169/9

[400306, 1]

No 13.

6. III. 1940

My golden little shell<sup>27</sup>! Now I see it, you are the best in the world. How did you turn the head of Mr. Dr. that he should take care of us so well, and he did so thoroughly. In any case, we were very happy about it and very surprised that we have been favoured to such a great extent. Thank you, dear Inge, and Mr. Dr. once again cordially for it. We were spoiled thereby, it was all very nice. Hopefully you are healthy and cheerful again, which I can also tell about us, Thank God. Hopefully I can tend you, dear Inge, and caress with my hand if you are sick once again, what may God forbid. Yes, I have the desire to be comfortable with you again and chat together. Kurt N. is to be confirmed on 17.3., he is already completely cracking up. He has become even thicker and more stupid. Today Mrs. Harzberger was here, she greets you cordially and has a lot of longing for you. It's still the same with her husband. Ilse Sabow's mother was here, she wanted to inquire about you, because Ilse asks about you in every letter, where you are. She's still there and she's doing tolerably. Your kiss was cute, do you have such red lips? Was Lola with you again? It's nice that Margot and Friedel feel so comfortable with you, does Gerti come? Has the daughter already moved in with you? You got nice presents from Mr. Dr. Hopefully you have received all letters from us. I hope to receive mail from you quite soon. Be greeted and kissed, in love your mother

My dear Inge!

Again, I sit with your dear parents, and whom do we chat about? About dear Inge. It seems you have survived your cold, being young. I am especially pleased that you are spoiling your parents a little, they have earned it for a long time and for you it is a satisfaction. We all now have little diversion and look forward

[400306, 2]

to the coming summer, the thrushes and chaffinches are already singing their spring song. Our neighbour Voss is also put out of his misery. Today I visited Alida, it is always the same, a hard task for the mother. My Pappi always goes to bed early, but otherwise he is fine, he will be 69. Many warm greetings from the two old ones until the next time.

My most beloved Ingelein!

Since the letter is sent immediately to Uncle Max, I will not fail to thank you, my dear child, for the gift, and I am glad that you are well, which we can also tell you about us, Praise the Lord. It probably gets better with my rheumatism, especially as one doesn't notice so much of it in warmer weather as usual. Hopefully you'll be well again, and your boss and patron arrived healthy and well. Goodbye, write again soon. Your loving Papi greets and kisses you 1000 times.

My dear Max!

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<sup>27</sup> meaning: my little loved one

We thank you for your last lines and hope that you are not angry, that we harass you so often. Today we received mail from Hanna informing us that the little girl is born, to which we congratulate you. It's just a pity that you can't be there, or vice versa, that dear Henny isn't with you. I only wish you all 4 will be back together quite soon in full health. Hopefully we will get mail from you again quite soon. What do you say to Dr. S.? Isn't that very nice of him? Greetings and kisses from your  
Paula & Paul

#### [400307](#)

4190/1

*Parents write to Inge and Max together – it seems that these two have disclosed the full extent of Inge's marriage plan and the parents are 'astonished' at the 'impossible' prospect of Inge marrying a non-Jew.*

[400307, 1]

No 14                      7. III 40

My dear Inge and dear Max!

When I sent your letter today, we received your letter, and we are very astonished about it. Dear Inge, don't make up your mind that quickly to such a step because that's forever. We already have written our opinion in a letter, which you have probably received in the meantime. I wrote to you in every letter, you should think what you are doing at every step of the way. Have you enquired after the family, is he also of our faith? I mean, as long as it is so, we cannot come and you have to work then will keep for you and us until later. Dear Inge, you know me, I'm not for the hasty, hopefully you didn't distress us. You can imagine dear Inge, in what condition we were when we got your letter. I need to tell you, that we cannot make up our minds to say yes, especially if he is not a Jew, it is impossible in our opinion. We assume that you don't have considered enough about taking the step. If everything is fine with you then you'd better wait. You have to have patience with Werner, it doesn't happen so quickly today.

[400307, 2]

Once he has offered you this, he will keep his word. You are still very young. When the kids come back, it won't get so bad, you'll be able to endure it. Dr. S. wrote to us very nicely. We also received the third package, for which we thanked in letter No 13. So dear Inge, if it is possible, then be very reasonable and wait until later.

Dear Max hopefully it will work out soon with dear Henny and the children, yes, so everyone has his dalles, one so, the other so. I assume that the letter will arrive in time. Hopefully I get good news from you. I mean, you have to get to know each other first, the time is too short

Warm greetings and kisses from your mother

Dear Ingelein

I also agree with the views of dear good mother and leave it to you to the best of your knowledge, and I hope that you will accept the good advice of your dear parents. It greets and kisses you your faithful good Papi

#### [400320](#)

*Parents write with birthday wishes for Inge's 20<sup>th</sup> (on 13<sup>th</sup> April). No mention of Denis; but continued concern about communication with Werner. They have dismissed their lodger (?) Mr Jahnke. Paul seems to have some work that takes him out of the house.*

[400320, 1]

No. 15                      30. 3. 1940

My beloved Inge!

Now 3 weeks have passed, we still have no news yet, we are very sad. Hopefully you're healthy. I can also tell you the same thing about us, Praise God. You must have received 5 more letters from us which you have not answered yet. Hopefully you are still with Dr. S. and have become accustomed to the fact that the others have come back. You surely will have received our last airmail letter, in which we responded to your last letter. Dear Inge, I congratulate you heartily on your birthday and wish you, my dear child, only the very best. Hopefully it won't be so hard for you to spend your 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and the first time without your parents. Console yourself with your girlfriends. How did Margot spend her birthday? Dear Inge you'll still get your gift, we have not come so far yet. It will give you great pleasure. We had an airmail letter from Lasers this week, which was just ¼ year en route. They write that they are quite satisfied so far. Uncle Max tailors and Aunt Hedy and Herrmann help. She also wrote that she hopes Werner will soon be there. Among other things, she also wants Werner to let you come. Have you had mail from Werner by now? As you can see, everything takes a long time. How did you spend Easter? I had the 2nd day off, and we left early and visited Uncle Ludwig. We were very surprised to find the apartment still in such a state. We gave Aunt Gerta a proper ticking off. I have little time, otherwise I would have surprised her again soon. On March 23, Uncle Walter had his birthday. We were there.

[400320, 2]

His bride also lives in the same apartment, they don't want to get married, I can't tell you why they got engaged. Aunt Erna has moved again, further away from here. I have also dismissed Mr. Jahnke. He was supposed to move out today, he hasn't left yet. We didn't like a lot of things with him, you can imagine what. Papi has been working since this week, and the fresh air does him quite good. I have now also done a lot with the thorough clean up at B. and rejoice when the time is up. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April Passover begins. Have you noticed something from Purim, which was on 24.3. None of your girlfriends have been here yet. Aunt Otti comes more often and greets you, Mrs. Gans was also here today, she also greets you. Mr. Gabriel is still in hospital. Tomorrow we'll go to see him. Mrs. G. was also ill last week, and the poor thing always has something else. How is Friedel doing? Please greet her from us, also Margot Gerdi and Mr. Dr. Did the Dr. receive our letters? I hope to get a nice long letter from you quite soon, and how it went with your thing<sup>28</sup>. Now celebrate your birthday quite nicely, we will think very much of you and drink a nice cup of coffee to your health.

Warm greetings and intimate kisses to you from your

Mum thinking always of you

My most beloved Ingelein!

I hope that you, my child, will do quite well, which we can also tell us about ourselves. On your 20th birthday, I send you the most heartfelt congratulations, especially happiness, health. Your friend Mr. Ludwig Berghoff <sup>29</sup> gets engaged today, 31 March. Dear mother has now received dentures for her missing teeth and she has to get used to it. She looks good with them. My child, let us hear something from you soon. Why don't you write to Walter Blau?

[on the left edge]

I wish you the best you can think of for your progress. Farewell

[upside down]

and be warmly greeted and kissed 10000 times by your Papi

[80275](#)

*This letter is undated and seems to be from two people, possibly the 'Gabriels.' It is identified by the censor's mark 802/75, and placed after the above as it conveys birthday wishes to Inge. Uncle Siegmund and Aunt Rosa are the*

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<sup>28</sup> Marriage?

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/en840985>: Ludwig Berghoff was born on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1908 and lived in Altona. He was interned in Sachsenhausen on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1938, but this may have been temporary. He later died in the Ghetto in Minsk. There is a Stolpersteine for him in the Rotherbaum area of Hamburg.

*Lipmanns (4003010). Brigitte thinks that Rosa is a family name for Paula's maternal aunt Sarah Rosenblatt. For Denny, Vera and Gerda, see also 400219.*

[80275, 1]

Dear Inge & dear Friedel!

We received your letter with great pleasure and are glad that you are healthy. Dear Friedel, also had mail from your parents this week, they are always glad about your mail, write often so that they can be reassured. I am astonished about Wassermanns manners, well they're in a nice position, they are all not Aunt Rosa. I have good news from Ruth & Werner, Ruth is working in a household, she likes it. Uncle Denny arrived safely, on his journey he has visited Wera and now he's happy at Gerda's. From Wera I also had mail yesterday. It pleases me that you dear Friedel like it, you are a brave girl, just stay like this, you will get through it. Hopefully I'll get a message soon again. Wishing you both all the best

your Aunt Rosa greets & kisses you

Uncle Siegmund sends his regards to you

For your birthday dear Inge we send Congratulations

[80275, 2]

My dear Inge. We are comfortable together and now we want to send you some greetings too Dear Inge, our birthday greetings combined with the wishes that all of this what you wish comes true and you'll stay safe and sound, 1000 greetings and kisses your Gabriels

[400404](#)

*I mistakenly first read the date on this letter as 4<sup>th</sup> April but is in fact 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940. Parents appear to be getting more reconciled to the idea of her marriage but would find it easier to accept if to a Jew. They have not heard from Werner. They promise something to follow that she has requested – this probably means the consent to her marriage (necessary in UK as she is under 21).*

[400404, 1]

No 16.

9. 4. 1940

My beloved sweet Inge!

Today we received 2 letters from you, dear Inge: from 7.3. and 27.3. and we thank you very cordially. We were very happy about it, because we had no mail for 5 weeks and were already very worried. Have you received the letter No. 14 of 7.3., in which we have written everything to you, concerning your marriage. You have to find your way, we can't judge it from here. If you think it's your luck and your progress, then we don't want to put anything in your way. However, we would have wanted you to tell us if he belongs to our religion. You have become very plump, you will soon become more and more like me. Now your legs have probably become thicker. Did you have to change all your clothes? I am very surprised that you have already been ragged after such a short time, you have had everything quite nice. I let make a nice dress by Aunt Rosa of the brown fabric from you, to which I bought some silk. When it's done, we'll let both of us take pictures and you'll get a photo of us later on for your birthday. Hopefully your birthday letter arrives in time. In any case we congratulate you again and wish you all the best. We will be with you in our thoughts all day long. I think it's very nice from Lola, please greet her from me. I don't think it's nice of Werner, he didn't write back to our 2 letters, although he might be comfortable if he attaches a letter to Rudi Lasers. Lasers are very sad about the loss of their daughter. It's getting worse with Magi. Bertel is very happily married and doesn't even think of Werner anymore. Today, 12.4. we have only received your letter of 19.3. Unfortunately, there was no address where we should send it. What you wished for will be sent to Uncle Max in the next few days, who will give it to you immediately. We also thank you for the lines of Mr.

[400404, 2]

Dr. S. It's very nice that he takes care of you like that. I'm very sorry with Margot, hopefully she's in a good position. Rhubarb doesn't have to feel sorry for you, it's better. Hopefully everything is fine with Friedel and she can come back to you. Mr. Gabriel is back at home. Both were here today, also Otti and Uncle Walter. Everyone will greet and congratulate you. Ms. Gans is now in hospital I haven't been with her yet. I'll go Sunday. I now have a lot of work to do before Easter. So, dear Inge, do nothing without due consideration, it is for the whole life. It would be very nice, because that way we might soon be able to see each other again. Mrs. V. greets you and congratulates you heartily. Once again dearest greetings and intimate kisses  
from your mum and papi.

Dear Max, thank you for your dear lines. I'm glad you're doing well. We had mail from dear Henny, she and the children are doing well, hopefully you will get back together quite soon. We are very sorry that you missed the letter, we were already very worried. Aunt Rosa is very nice, it's the only relative I still have here and we meet once a week. If my time allows, I go to her more often. Paul does not work outdoors in his profession. I also had mail from G. this week, they write, it's quite good so far. Do you live with your relatives? Warm greetings and kisses from yours

Paula Paul

Thank you for the note

[400404, 1 upside down]

Greetings to Mr. Dr. Greetings to your D.

[400404, 1 downside upside down]

Warm birthday greetings from your C.V.

[400414](#)

*The date used for the classification is wrong – this letter is 14<sup>th</sup> April 1940, from Max.*

[400414, 1]

Rotterdam 14.4.40

Dear Inge!

I hope you are still doing well. I can say the same about myself. Send you some letters and assume that you know whom they belong to. Please tell Friedel that unfortunately you can't send packages to Poland.

Your Uncle Max

greet and kisses you

[400414, 2] I just receive another letter from your dear parents and send it to you. Enclosed two reply coupons

Your uncle Max

kisses you

[400429](#)

*Letter from Paula to Inge and Max, and from Walter to Inge. They have now produced the necessary consent for the marriage, at considerable expense. At this point they don't seem sure what to do with it, but we know it did reach Inge (via Max?). Paula acknowledges the name 'Denis'. They have a new lodger – a 'young girl' though 34!*

[400429, 1]

Letter No. 17                      29. 4. 1940

My dear Inge and dear Max!



Hopefully you both are doing quite well healthwise, which I also can report from us, thank God. We do not understand, dear Inge, that we receive so little mail from you. The last mail was from 27.3. Hopefully it does mean nothing. How did you spend your birthday? We thought a lot about you. Especially on your birthday we have put the desired paper in order for you, it did cost us a lot, approved by a solicitor and the consulate of the USA, we sent it straight away by R.K. and got it back after 8 days, and now we don't know what to do with it, it should be your birthday present. We received your letter as well as from Dr. S. of 19.3., but unfortunately the address was not there. How did you spend the holidays or did you not notice any of them? We were at the Seder evenings at the place where Papi always eats, it was very nice and we thought very intense of you. I'm glad it's all over soon, I've had a lot of work. We have now rented out to a young girl. She is quite nice, so we have a bit of distraction in the evenings and are not so alone. she is 34 years old. On Saturday Aunt Otti and Mrs. Harzberger were here, they send you their regards. From Otti you will soon receive a big letter. Mr. Harzberger is in hospital, he has had surgery on his stomach. I had mail from Aunt Bella: unfortunately it hasn't worked out with USA yet, because of Menny's heart defect. They wanted to come here, but unfortunately this is not possible. Yesterday, a young

[400429, 2]

girl came and delivered greetings from Numy [?], who is with her on a Hachshara. I don't understand, dear Inge, that you write, you couldn't send us a picture, I don't know why, Margot wrote that she wants to send a picture. I think very often about your 20 pounds, I think it might be too much, aren't you too fat? Anyway, we get the machine back. Mr. Gärtner always inquires about you. There is also a letter from Aunt Hedy, I now go to Lasers and pick it up. Tomorrow afternoon we are at Levinsons For the notes dear Max I thank you very much. Hopefully you have good news from dear Henny and the children.

Today take the most heartfelt greetings and kisses  
from your mother and sister

I hope to get good news from you more often now

Greetings to Denis and Friedel Margot Gerti

My dearly loved Ingelein!

I hope that this letter will meet you, my child, in good health. We are well and now I am better off with my rheumatism, especially since the weather gets balmy. We have fulfilled all your special wishes after careful consideration and Mum has already informed you, my dear. For your birthday we wanted to send this to you, but – I hope that you are doing quite well, and that you will continue to be quite brave, like both of us old folks. Goodbye and be warmly greeted + 1000 times kissed by your Papi

Greeting to your friends and relatives.

Dear little Ingemaus. Actually, I didn't hear much from you, but what I heard was very pleasing. So, I'm often with your dear parents and we talk a lot about you. I got engaged – 35 years, 2 children 1 boy in England, the girl here. We live together (i.e. in an apartment) otherwise – well you know me. Weight 165 pounds in dry condition. She is very pretty and 2 cm taller than me. Alice couldn't get divorced because her husband died before the appointment, now she's a widow and I'm engaged. Your dear mother and father were guests of honour at the engagement party, your mother was the only bridesmaid. I'm in Shanghai for your wedding. Intimate greetings and kisses Your Uncle Walter

[on the left edge]

I ate Kremser [?] and matzah  
your mom!! Great!!

[400925](#)

*Germany invaded the Netherlands on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940 and resistance lasted only a few days. Rotterdam itself was heavily bombarded on 14<sup>th</sup> May, possibly after the Dutch government had already agreed to surrender. The next letter on file is sent by the parents through the Red Cross on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1940. Inge used to say that Max was*

shot in Rotterdam. In fact though we know that he went to live in Gouda, where there is a 'stumbling stone' laid in his memory at no 5, Elisabeth Wolffstrat<sup>30</sup>. He was deported and murdered in the Sobidor death camp on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1943.

Dear Inge!

We are terribly worried why no sign of life here all well give message immediately have you married. Many thousand greetings kisses.

Mutti Pappi.

### 1337

*From Paul and Paula with an additional note from the Levinsons. We do not know the date of this but it belongs to this period as Inge and Denis have been 'married for a few months.' This letter has a New York address at the top but it is in different handwriting from the rest of the letter and could be a later addition. It is not clear that the letter has come from this address.*

[1337, 1]

Luck 1337 Wilkins Ave, Bronx NY

My beloved children!

We heard from Margot that you dear Inge are married, we are very sorry that you dear Inge did not write ourself, we long for a few lines from you dear children, please write together with Margot, for us it was a big surprise that you have been married for a few months we are thrilled about that. Above all, we cordially congratulate you and wish you dear children all the best. Hopefully we'll meet again healthy in the near future. I've written to you many times but unfortunately, no message from you. Hopefully you are fairly healthy, I can also report the same for us, Thanks to God. We also had mail from Aunt Hedy. They are doing very well, Hermann became the managing director in a tailor shop. We had mail from Ruth Goldschmidt, the letter was still from January, they are all longing, Kurt wouldn't have forgotten you yet, but unfortunately, too late. You are certain happier with your dear Denny. Do you have thought of the holidays? Uncle Max also writes well, and all other relatives are fine. Aunt Otti sends her regards, was very delighted. Mrs. Vettner and Mrs. Gans send their regards. I soon expect good news from you. Warm regards and sweet kisses, also for the parents Your you loving Mum Dad.

Dear Inge! Send you and your dear husband congratulations and all the best Congratulations as well  
your Mrs. Levinson J. Levinson.

### 401113

*This letter from parents is addressed to 'beloved children' Inge and Denis. It is probably the first sent via the Lisbon postbox, of which more below. Inge has managed to make contact, likely via this route. Both parents are working.*

[401113, right]

13.11.1940

My beloved children!

Yesterday we received your dear letter, from which we were very happy to hear again from you after such a long time. I was very worried about you, dear Inge, and I am glad that you and Dennis are doing quite well and you are quite happy. I can tell you good things about us, we are healthy and everything it as usual, Praise the Lord. The other uncles and aunts as well as the children are also doing well, only the dear Uncle Sally unfortunately has the same illness as Uncle Jakob, we are all very sad about it. From Aunt Hedy we also had mail, she is very well, she is lucky again that she gets a lot of gifts, she got a fur coat from the people with whom she lives, we got a picture of

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/90860/Stumbling-Stones-Elisabeth-Wolffstraat-5.htm>

the three, they look quite good. She wants your address, I write you the address and you can write to her. We also had mail from Ruth, it was still from January. She also writes nothing special, they are quite on a budget. If you were there, you could make a lot of money, they could probably all use that well. Kurt wouldn't have forgotten you. I wrote a letter to Leo Bauner. Are you still seeing Lola? Hopefully she doesn't know everything about Dennis, I didn't say it here. Does Dennis have more siblings and how did you get to know him? I hope, that you, dear Inge, can soon make up for it, that you sit on my lap and I can take you into my arms, oh how beautiful that would be. Miss Guttmann, who lives with us, has her foot sprained and I make her compresses. She sends you greetings and wishes you all the best. Mrs. Gans has just been here, sends her greetings. They are happy that you are doing so well, Praise God.

[401113, left]

Ms. Krellenberg<sup>31</sup> greets you and asks if you are still thinking about it when she told you that you will soon get married. Hedy was also here, and she is very happy with you, in the shop they all know it. Otherwise old acquaintances still come to us and everyone sends greetings and wishes you all the best. I am glad that your in-laws are nice to you. Are they as good as your muttel? Do both remain quite well and healthy and we hope to meet soon with Gods help. Hearty kisses and greetings from

your loving mum, My beloved children.

My deepest thanks to the congratulations you sent and I was very pleased that you are doing quite well. Now I have the pleasure of writing to 2 happy souls, and I wish you wholeheartedly that you may be allowed to always be happy and satisfied, just as your dear parents are, dear Ingelein. We are in good health and we have employment. We lack only one thing: your presence. everything cannot be set up as desired and we hope that you young people, to whom the world is still open, will continue to do quite well, please do not forget, dear Denis, to greet your parents. Greetings to Margot and Gerti from me, as well as, not to forget, Friedel. Stay healthy, all the best for the future. Thousands dear greetings – kisses from Your Dear Good Father

Moritz Laser Santiago de Chile Castro (Kastro) 29

Greetings to Friedel Gerti Margot Why did Friedel change her position?

[401207](#)

*Second letter sent via Lisbon.*

[401207, 1]

7.12.1940

My beloved Inge and dear Denis!

We received your dear lines and it is a great joy to hear from both of you. Hopefully you are both healthy and well and dear Denis is with you. I can tell good things from us, everyone is healthy, thank God. I was very sad that your picture, dear Inge, has not arrived. I would have been very pleased about that. Try to send one again, was Denis on it? Margot and Gerdis picture was in it. Tell Friedel to attach a letter for her parents, they are in good health. It was good that we didn't know the day of your wedding, it would have been horrible for us not to be there, hopefully we can make up for it soon. I would like to get to know dear Denis. I talk to you a lot, dear Inge, to your picture. Papi laughs at me, but I don't let myself be bothered. You have to know everything I have on my heart, my sweetness. Tomorrow we go to Aunt Erna for coffee. Walter no longer comes to us. We received your letter of 13 Aug. and answered it immediately. From Nany [?] I also had mail today, which has all sorts of wishes, she is on a Hakhshara. In 14 days we have Chanukah. Don't you come together with Margot now a lot. It is nice that you have such a nice boarding house. Do you still meet Dr. Subkes, I often think of the beautiful surprise of Dr. Subkes, which was very nice. Uncle Max is doing well, he is longing for his family. We wrote to Aunt Hedy after a long time. Do write to her too. I still have my job. I come together a lot with Aunt Rosa, she sends greetings. Willi

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<sup>31</sup> Neighbour

Konert and Mr. Minska send greetings everyone thinks of you, also all acquaintances send greetings. So stay very healthy, write quite often, a thousand greetings and kisses from your

mum Papi

[upside down]

Greetings to Margot Gerdi Friedel

### [410128](#)

*We now come to the first of the two 'illegal' letters. The German authorities noticed the suspiciously high level of mail passing through a PO Box in Lisbon, and discovered that it had been set up by a sleeping-car attendant to provide a route for people all over Germany to correspond with enemy countries. Paula was interrogated, charged with breaking the law on international correspondence and sentenced to a prison term, reduced on appeal to a fine (see appendix for the full details). Inge never saw these two letters, nor, of course, did she know of the court case. All this was brought to light by the research of Susanne Rosendahl, author of many biographies of victims of Nazi persecution. Susanne found these letters in the court file in the archives in Hamburg library. After the two letters, I have added an appendix with Susanne's research.*

*Brigitte thinks the first letter, 410128, is actually from the Levinsons, based on the handwriting and language, so the vertical note would be added by Paula.*

My dear children!

I hope that you are well and expect to get news from you soon. How far is it now with your papers my dear Gerti? Since ~~August 1939~~ we have heard nothing from Karl and I really don't know what I should say. I'm fine again my heart is far better, only the frost affected my hands, but otherwise I am healthy. I have dentures now and I am pleased with it, it is still inconvenient, but however, that will cease. What do you do my Margotchen, hopefully we all will see each other healthy again shortly. Ludwig's wife is in hospital, had a stillbirth, the child lived for 1 hour. To Inge many warm greetings also to her dear husband. Otherwise nothing new. Bela is been married since 28.12.40 to Maak in Shanghai. Thousand greetings & kisses your loving dad.

My beloved children! I Hope that you my beloved children are quite healthy, send you my warmest greetings. Touch wood, we are also very good in terms of health. Do write somewhat more detailed. Has Karl got the travel permit for you already, my Gertichen. And what about you my Margotchen? Did you get your birthday letter, again dearly-beloved congratulations, all the best. What about the U.S.A. Trudchen Levin is now summoned to get there Meta is already there where Hanna and Stas are. Emma is divorced. On January 13, it was Mrs.

[left side vertical]

Bauer's birthday, James birthday was too. Röschen has in March. What does Ria, Mrs. Kleimagen, Mrs. Richart, give them my greetings. Have a good time.

[right side vertical]

Write soon. Intimate, cordial greetings and kisses sends your loving mum

### [410218](#)

18.2.41

My beloved children!

Unfortunately we haven't heard from you my loved ones for a long time the last letter from you dear Inge was the one that you wrote on Papi's birthday. Hopefully you both beloved children are healthy, I can give you good news healthwise from us. Have already written you several letters, but unfortunately no message from you, we are very worried. I didn't receive a birthday letter from you dear Inge. I also didn't get your picture. Rudi Laser was here and sends greetings, he still thinks of the beautiful hours you have experienced here. His parents emigrated last month. What does Friedel, she should enclose a letter for her parents. Gerda Rosenblatt got a baby in October we don't know what it is yet. How is Denis, I hope that he is quite well. What do you do dear Inge do you work? Do you meet Dr. Subkis. Have you ever written to Aunt Hedy. We haven't mail from her for a long time. On your

birthday my beloved Inge-Musch we congratulate you very much and wish you only the very best, that you and the dear Denis may stay quite healthy and the dear God may protect you.

Hopefully we can celebrate together next year. Papi also wants to write.  
A thousand intimate greetings and kisses Your mum  
I dream every night of you, oh would it come true soon

My beloved children,

I, too, worry, not to receive mail for several months from you my loved ones. I assume that you are doing quite well and that you are happy. Write as soon as possible, be most warmly greeted and kissed by Your Papi

#### **Appendix: The illegal letters of January and February 1941 (material from court file discovered by Susanne Rosendahl)**

Offence against the Ordinance on Letter Traffic. StaH 213-11\_62449

The Foreign Letter Examination Office in Munich noticed that a large number of letters from all parts of Germany were being sent to the Post Box in Lisbon.

An employee of the International Sleeping Car Company named Boile was the owner of the Post Box and forwarded the letters from Lisbon to England and other countries.

The letters were confiscated on the orders of the Reich Security Main Office, as it was suspected that important messages were being sent to enemy countries. The senders were then investigated. Among the intercepted letters was the one from Paula to Inge. Paula was questioned by the police on 14 March 1941. She stated that she did not know the address of her daughter who lived in England. She had received letters through the Red Cross several times and had also sent letters to her daughter through the Red Cross several times.

Then, in November 1940, she received a letter asking her to send reply letters to the Lisbon Post Box. She had sent three letters to this address, the last one at the beginning of this year, and it was the same letter she had now in front of her. "She knew that correspondence was forbidden in hostile countries, but that it was permitted to send letters to her daughter in neutral countries." After a warning from the secret state police, Paula was released to go home. The public prosecutor's office brought charges and on 28 May 1941 she was sentenced in a summary trial by the Hamburg Regional Court to one month in prison and had to pay the costs of the trial. In the reasons for the judgement it was stated that the apology could not exonerate the accused because everything about the correspondence with foreign countries would have been published in the newspaper. Her conduct would have been particularly dangerous because it would have opened the door to espionage. And as a Jew, she would have had to be especially careful.

On 4 June 1941, Paula wrote to the district court asking for the sentence to be reduced by "mercy", explaining her reasons as follows:

I realise that before I wrote to Lisbon I should have made enquiries with the competent authorities. If I failed to do so, it was because I believed that a letter to Lisbon was not unauthorised because my daughter's letter had passed through the censors and I was asked in a letter to write to Lisbon in future.

I am 52 years old and have lived in Hamburg for 27 years. I have never been punished by the court, the police or any other authority. The same applies to my husband, who has lived in Hamburg for 59 years. My husband is an electrician by profession, but has the misfortune to have cataracts. He is therefore extraordinarily handicapped in his gainful employment, as any activity outside the workshop is impossible for him. I myself contribute to the household by taking a morning job (cleaning lady). We pay the rent partly by renting out. So unfortunately

we live in very small circumstances. Our thoughts are always with our only child, who is in England, and whom we have no prospect of seeing again at present.

If I am now forced to serve a prison sentence of one month, my husband is completely alone and helpless. There is no one to run the household and care for him.

I request that the sentence not be enforced, possibly against payment of a fine in line with my financial situation.

On 9<sup>th</sup> June 1941, her request was granted. The prison sentence was commuted to a fine of 50 Reichsmarks.

#### 4108xx

*These two notes are copies Inge made on the back of Red Cross instructions for dealing with correspondence. Therefore we may conclude that the parents sent Inge a note via the Red Cross, Inge replied on the Red Cross form, and retained these copies as a record. We do not know the date for sure but the reference to Papi's birthday suggests Inge expects the reply to reach Hamburg before August 13<sup>th</sup>. Denis is gone (overseas with the army) and Inge is still living with her in-laws, so this is some time before mid-August 1941. Paul and Paula were deported from Hamburg to Lodz in October 1941. But at this point they say they are 'content' and 'well' and Werner is married.*

Beloved Inge,

Tremendously glad, we are all well and all the best for you all, Werner married, hope Denis is well and healthy, hope we will see again soon, warm regards kisses Mutti, Papi (Mom, Dad)

Beloved parents,

Happy you are well. I am fine. Denis is still gone. Still living at my parents in law. Have been on vacation with Friedel for one week. Birthday kisses, Papi. Love longing Inge

#### 440711

*This letter is from David Rosenblatt who has recently moved from Kenya to South Africa, contracting malaria en route. David Rosenblatt<sup>32</sup> was the husband of Paul Seligsohn's sister Helene Minna who died in Hamburg on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1938. Inge, now 24 years old and established as 'English', is thinking of moving to South Africa after the war. At the time of the earlier letters there was no expectation that Germany would lose the war; now, after D-Day, this defeat, and the end of the war, is just a matter of time and Inge is thinking about her future. Whether this future includes Denis is not clear, though he is mentioned in the letter.*

D. Rosenblatt  
22 Musmary Court<sup>33</sup>  
Johannesburg

11.7.1944

My dear Inge!

Excuse me please that I am only today replying to your two letters which made me very happy. Your second letter arrived at the same time as Friedel's letter which, as there is no air mail from London, came by steam mail, I have also replied to her today. Since 4<sup>th</sup> May I am here and have made the journey, as I wrote to you in my previous letter, by train. I was on travel for two weeks, and was the journey probably too much for me, during the second

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<sup>32</sup> Information from Susanne Rosendahl. Susanne has found that David Rosenblatt was the guardian (appointed by the Jewish community?) of the son of a single mother. See [https://www.stolpersteine-hamburg.de/en.php?&LANGUAGE=EN&MAIN\\_ID=7&r\\_name=freundlich&r\\_strasse=&r\\_bezirk=&r\\_stteil=&r\\_sort=Nachname\\_AUF&recherche=recherche&submitter=suchen&BIO\\_ID=2207](https://www.stolpersteine-hamburg.de/en.php?&LANGUAGE=EN&MAIN_ID=7&r_name=freundlich&r_strasse=&r_bezirk=&r_stteil=&r_sort=Nachname_AUF&recherche=recherche&submitter=suchen&BIO_ID=2207)

<sup>33</sup> A block of flats later converted for the use of an art school, see <https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/fada/visual-art/Pages/History-and-Context.aspx> (thanks to Brigitte for this identification)

week I did not feel well, and arrived half dead in Johannesburg. After ten days the flu, which I had picked up on the way, broke up furthermore a strong Malaria, and had I to be taken to hospital. Nearly two weeks I was there, but felt very weak the following weeks, what was more the present winter is very cold over here, I was no longer used to that climate, for there is no winter in Kenya. Now I am praise God (PG) quite well again, and I am beginning

over - page 2

to get acquainted with Johannesburg. Johannesburg is a very beautiful, modern city, in which one can live. Together with Edmund I live in a very nice 1-room-flat, with a nice kitchen and bathroom, all modern, electric installation, I take my meals at Vera's who lives only 3 minutes away from us. The children are PG very well, have good position and earn money. Little Roy will be 3 years old in August and is a lovable chap whom I find much pleasure of. I have good news from Gerda + Bernd, they are well PG. That you are altogether well, makes me happy and I hope that you will have good news from your husband. That you have in mind to move over to South Africa after the war is not a bad idea, for you English people immigration is no problem at all. As a tailor you can earn a lot of money here, for a formed good tailor is needed and searched very much. Edmund makes me send you his regards, he is very busy and what's more very lazy to write. He has changed much to his advantage, you wouldn't recognize him. For the little picture you sent many thanks. We don't get films at present, later on I shall send you pictures from us. Do you have news from W.L. Let us hear from you again and kindest regards from

Your Uncle David

[451006](#)

*This, the final letter in the collection, was sent to Inge via the US Army postal service. It is addressed to Mrs J. H. Lusk at Denis' parents' home but re-addressed to 30 Tennyson Road, Harpenden. The letter comes from Berlin a few months after the end of the war. Uncle Willy (or Willi) is a younger brother of Paula, born in 1895. His wife Hannah or Hanna writes the first letter, Willy adds a shorter one. According to a family tree provided by Gunther Katz<sup>34</sup>, Hanna died in 1946 and Willy remarried. Willy went to Israel/Palestine and died in 1971. Willy and Hanna survived the war by fleeing to Berlin where Hanna has a brother. They survived for 3½ years so fled around the end of 1941, when deportation of all Jews was underway. They were protected in Berlin by Max Schroder and others who were Christians and/or 'human beings'. Willy is now involved in welfare and resettlement work with the small number of Jewish survivors and returnees. Inge has sought news of her parents. They were last heard of in a letter from Lodz in February 1942. By that time, as we now know, ten thousand local (Polish) Jews a month were being sent out of Lodz to the death facility created a short train journey away, at Chelmno, the first specially created death camp in Nazi-held Europe. Paul and Paula perished, probably at Chelmno, on or around 25<sup>th</sup> April 1942.*

*Of the twelve children of Baruch and Jenny Katz, the survivors apart from Willy are the two youngest: uncle Ludi (Ludwig, born 1899) and aunt Hannah (born 1901) who married Alvin Feilman, who is mentioned in the letter as serving as a British soldier in Italy. Alvin was in Palestine before the second world war – I do not know when he and Hannah married.*

Berlin 6th October, 1945

Dear Inge, we were ever so glad to hear from a dear one and to learn that the beloved ones in Palestine know that t.g. (thank God) we are alive. How much do I and also Uncle long for Lothar and would be happy to receive a letter from him. Yes, dear Inge, we have lived hidden for 3½ years. In the last moment Uncle Willi and I decided to flee when the executioners' servants came to get us and thank God we succeeded. Schroders they are the people who first took us, he is not called Moses but Max, they are Christians. We were ever so lucky to again and again find people who were human beings and not murderers. For 2 years we were in Berlin and then we stayed with dear good people near Berlin for another year. We were better off there during the bomb attacks than in Berlin. Nowadays Uncle Willi is active in the Jewish Parish, section welfare. He is responsible for the homes where all those who were lucky to have come back go until they return to their hometowns. Unfortunately they are not many. Of the Berlin Jews who numbered 140 000 there are about 2,400 but among these are

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<sup>34</sup> Gunther Katz was the son of Paula's oldest brother Sally. Gunther escaped to Switzerland and subsequently settled in California. He became a close family friend of ours and we remain close to his surviving family.

already those who had lived hidden. Mixed marriages who were not away are app. 6.000 Jews. And there we heard from acquaintances who were together with Aunt Berta, Lothar, Aunt Selma and Manfred in Riga that they it is terrible there all our dear ones died. Also Aunt Bella with family. Uncle Benno (?) from Giessen died the day before they came to get him. The Aunt and Gertrud were brought to Poland. From your parents dear Inge the last letter was received by my brother here in Berlin in February 1942 from Lodz. We had let them know my brother's address as they were no longer able to write to us. Also one was able to send money and did we send as often as possible. Then as we heard all came from Lodz to Lublin. Of those sent to Lodz from Germany unfortunately no one so far came back. - Dear Inge apparently, except for Aunt Herma and Uncle Ludi, Uncle Willi is the only one remaining from all those many brothers and sisters. It's a wrench. Of Uncle Max's wife Aunt Henny with her 2 children Rolf and Zilla that sweet little one we had the last news in August '42 from Warszawa, she together with her children would be seeing soon Uncle Emil.

I would have preferred my darling to send you better news but unfortunately the great sorrow which has overcome us is so heavy. My brother with wife and 1 daughter were able t.g. to save themselves. They stayed hidden for 2½ years As he lived in Berlin we came there in time from Recklinghausen and that is why we are here now. Those years were very hard but praise God we live. If you can write back please do so to the address M. Feinbach Berlin N° 4 Lothringerstr 34 II Portal as we will only get an apartment in a few days so this is the address of my brother. In case you should be able and get an opportunity by somebody to send us a parcel with some victuals we would be very grateful. We have money but food is lacking. We are happy that you have a kind husband give him our best regards and tell him that we would be pleased if we got to know our new nephew. You and your dear husband please accept our kind regards and kisses  
Your Aunt Hanna

My dear Inge!

You will be able to imagine how pleased we were to get a letter from you. Unfortunately, here in Germany (*only*) I remained of us nevertheless we have to continue to hope, perhaps someone of our family is alive after all. Only by miracle both of us were saved by God's kindness. I am very happy dear Inge that you have found a good husband and are living contentedly and hope that you will be able to establish your own home soon. We are happy to hear via you from dear Lothar also from Aunt Hanna, we heard from a soldier that Uncle Alvin is in Italy, we immediately gave a letter for him. Now take my kindest regards also for your dear husband

your loving  
Uncle Willy

-end-