

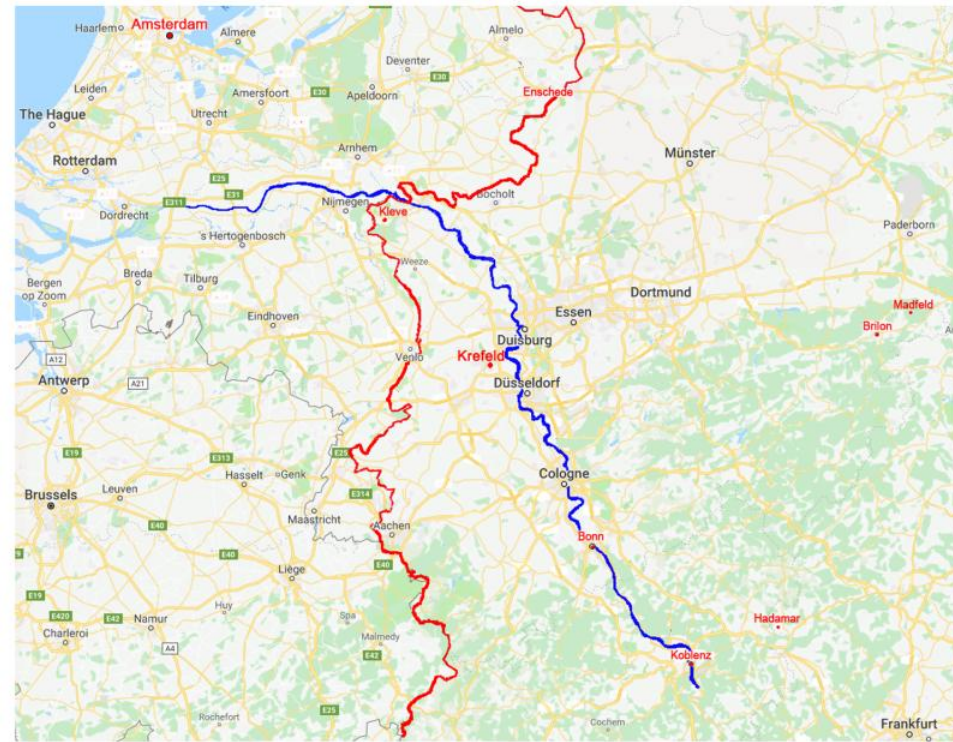
Irene's Story

For nearly 250 years, since the 1700s, my mother's family have always lived near the river Rhine. They lived where they were allowed as it snaked its way down from the Dutch border through Duisberg, Krefeld, Dusseldorf and Cologne and then through Bonn and finally to Koblenz, where I was born.

Originally my mother's family lived in Spain until they were expelled in 1492 by the Spanish King and Queen Ferdinand and Isabella after the Christians conquered the Arabs. Fleeing from Spain, they settled in Holland eventually living in Enschede before moving to the Rhineland sometime before 1700.

By the time I was born in 1926, we had relatives all over the Rhineland, especially around the town of Kleve which is where King Henry the Eighth's wife, Ann, came from.

My father's family came from around Madfeld, a really small town which only had about 50 Jews living there.



Madfeld Kreis Brilon

There were no famous people in our family but they seem to have lived quietly and led reasonably prosperous lives, at least until I was born.

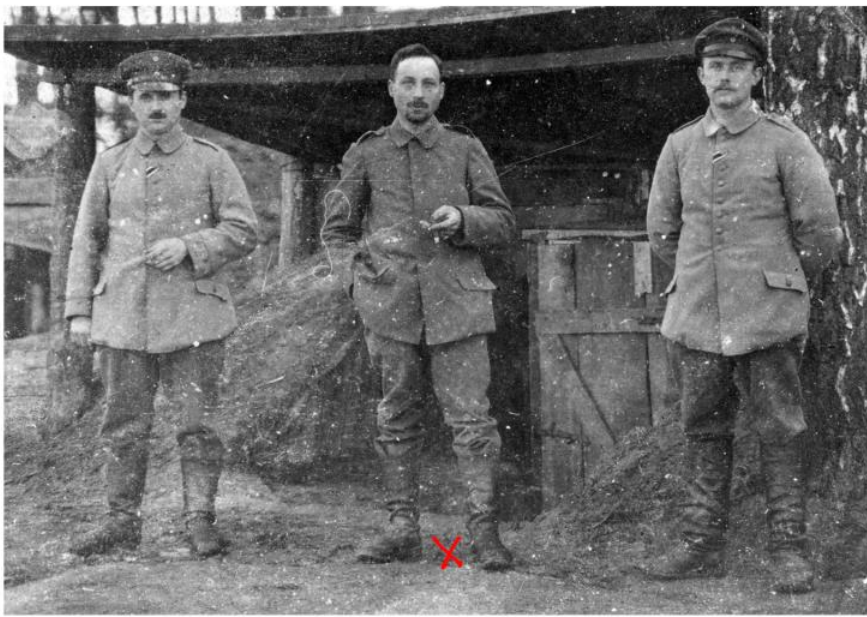
Nevertheless, there were a few dark times – for some reason that I never knew my grandfather Jacob killed himself when he was 57 years old.

My father Hirsch Hermann Schonewald was born in Madfeld in 1877. He made his living from selling cloth to tailors, haberdashers and people who made products from his materials. Since my mother was a dress maker, I suppose they made a good team.

He spent some time in 1907 in the army, training to be a medical orderly. I think he enjoyed his time training in the Army.

The photographs seem to show him and his comrades enjoying themselves, guarding the bridges over the Rhine in Koblenz and in drinking beer in their barracks near Darmstadt.





On the 27 November 1907 after leaving the army, Hermann and my mother got married in Krefeld. During the First World War he served in the Imperial German Army and fought against the Russians. In the photos he doesn't look as happy and relaxed as the ones when he was training. I always liked the photo with the Christmas tree but at least he came back from the war safely.





1908

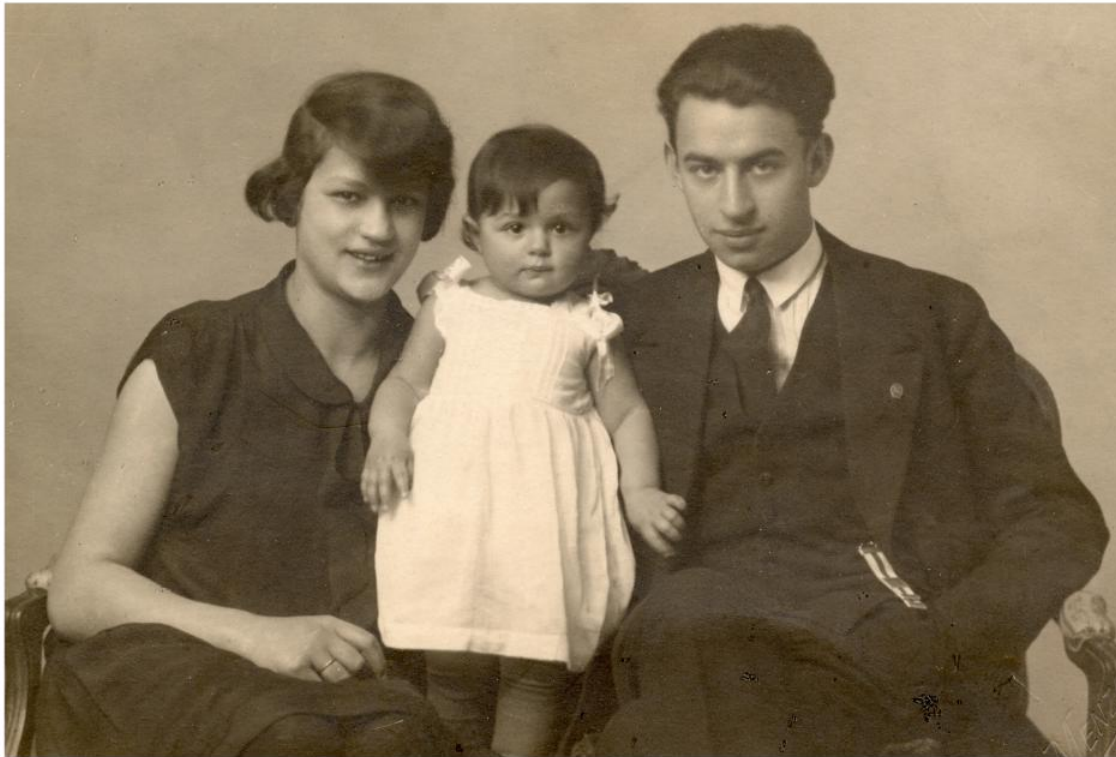
My parents would go out together on special occasions looking very smart. They kept the main Jewish festivals but were not particularly religious although my mother's brother Max was quite frum. Max was always very particular about where his kosher meat came from.

By the time my brother Köbi was born in 1908 the family had moved from Krefeld and they were living in Dortmund when they had their first child, Köbi (Jacob). Two years later my sister Lotte (Charlotte) was born.



Sixteen years after Lotte was born, I came along in 1926. My mother was 42 years old and my father was nearly 50. It must have been quite a surprise to my parents when they discovered my mother was pregnant, since my siblings were already grown up. Kobi was 18 and about to go to Bonn University to study Law and Lotte was 16.

I think Lotte and Kobi must have paid for this picture so that my mother could have a photo of the three of her children together, especially since Kobi was about to leave home to university.



I have no idea what is happening here.

Sterbeurkunde.

Nr. 373.

Koblenz, am 27. April 1927.

~~Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der Persönlichkeit nach~~

_____ kannt,

Die Verwaltung des Krankenhauses der Barmherzigen

Brüder hier hat angezeigt, _____

wohnhaft in _____

und zeigte an, daß der Kaufmann Hirsch Schönwald, _____

_____ 49 Jahre alt, _____

wohnhaft in Koblenz, Hohenzollernstrasse 89, _____

geboren zu Madfeld, Kreis Brilon, Ehemann von Berta

geborenen Goldstein in Koblenz wohnhaft, _____

zu Koblenz, Kardinal-Krementsstrasse 1-5, _____

am vierundzwanzigsten ^{ten} März _____

des Jahres tausend neunhundert sieben und zwanzig, _____

_____ nach mittags um _____ ein ein viertel _____ Uhr

verstorben sei. Zu dieser nachträglichen Eintragung ist die

Genehmigung der Aufsichtsbehörde erteilt worden.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und _____

(Vorstehend 17 Druckworte und 1 Drucksilbe ge =

_____ strichen). _____

Der Standesbeamte.

_____ Henn. _____

Daß vorstehender Auszug mit dem Sterbe-Haupt-Register des Standesamts zu
Koblenz _____

gleichlautend ist, wird hiermit bestätigt

Koblenz, am 27. April 1927.

Der Standesbeamte.

Gebühren: 0,30 M.

K. No. 2119



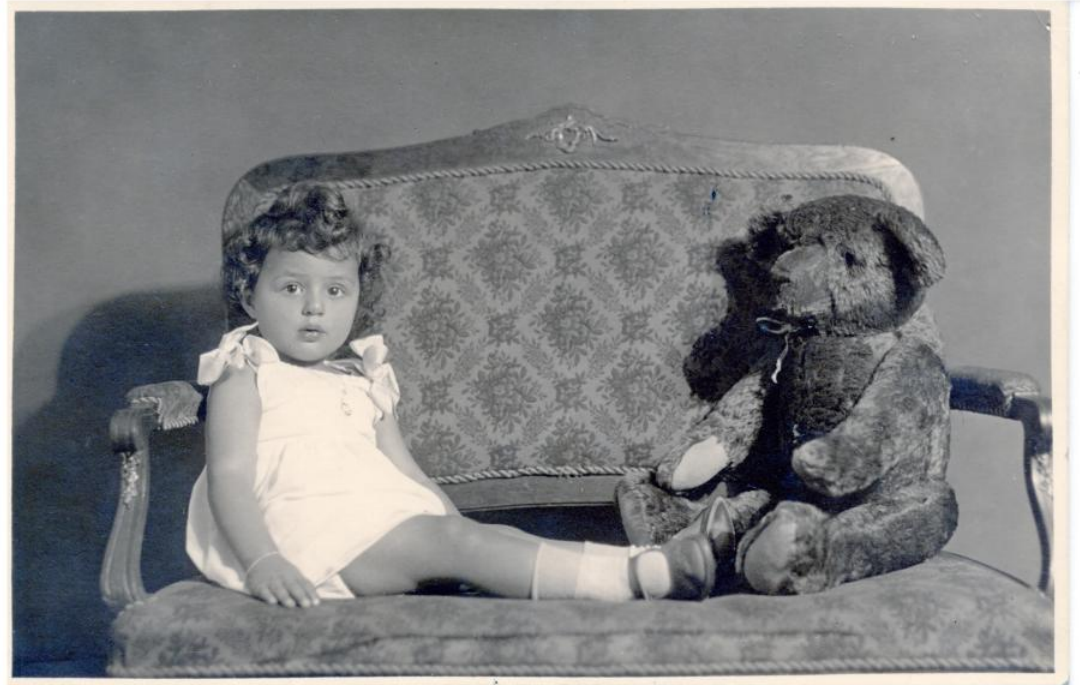
Less than a year after I was born, my father died.

Due to the hyperinflation and the poor economic climate, life was already very difficult and the death of my father would have made my mother's situation very much tougher. She had no rich relatives to help her and now had three children to support. The Rhineland was still occupied by the French and the lack of any investment had led to economic stagnation.

She had to move from their flat in Hohenzollernstrasse to a flat in the Bahnhofstrasse where we all lived together.

It was a small flat and my mother made ends meet by carrying on a small haberdashery business in a room in the flat where she would meet her customers.

Growing up, I was not aware of my mother's straightened circumstances. It was a secure and happy childhood.





I spent a lot of time with my big sister and my childhood friend Ruth.



Here I am on my 3rd birthday with Kobi, who was back home from University.





Here I am looking very smart on my 4th birthday in May 1930, wearing a coat that Lotte made for me and carrying my dolly and my suitcase.



I would often go on outings with my mummy. Here we have gone to the castle at Stolzenfels near Koblenz.

My childhood was an idyllic one. I never missed having a Daddy since my mummy always ensured I was happy and well looked after. Since I was unexpected and very much younger than my siblings I was very close to my mummy who loved and spoilt me.



Sitting in our flat on a spectacular bed spread. My mummy's sewing machine is against the wall. It was a very tidy flat.



Sitting in a rather grand chair in a photo taken shortly before I started school.



My best friend Ruth Lowenthal lived round the corner from us and her mother owned a delicatessen and where, if we were good, we would sometimes get treats. Ruth was an only child and her father died in 1931 from wounds received during the First World War so she was also brought up by her mother alone. We would play together a lot and we were in the same class at school. In the photo Ruth is in the chair and I am about to get a treat.



I never forgot my first day at school. It was April 1932 and I was nearly 6 years old. My mother gave me a huge "Schultüte", a cone filled with sweets.



My school class photo. I am standing on the far left with my little satchel. My friend Ruth is sitting in the middle looking rather disgruntled.



My mother relaxing on the weekend with her illustrated newspaper and a cup of coffee.

Within a few months of these photos "normal" times in Germany came to an end. Two days after I started school the last elections were held and the Nazi party became the major force and in January 1933 Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany.



In January 1933 the swastika was hung from the Town Hall.

My mother made sure that these terrible events were kept from me as far as possible.

Koblenz was one of only two areas in the Rhineland that did not elect the Nazis but it made no difference.

In the main these events had little impact on me but for my brother Kobi it was very different. He was immediately dismissed from his job as a lawyer because he was Jewish. Unable to make a living in Germany he left home in October to emigrate to Holland. He never returned to Germany.

Anyway, as a cosseted and protected 6 year old girl I did not think that any one of this really had anything to do with me.



The Nazis covered the buildings with swastika flags



Adolf Hitler visiting Koblenz



Christmas 1933

I went to Amsterdam with my mother to visit Kobi.

Kobi met and married Lore in Amsterdam and they went to Palestine in 1935



Kobi was very proud of his new motor bike



A very Summery Looking 9 year old on a visit to Fachbach in 1935





1936 and 1937 passed quickly. Lotte married Max Hein in November 1937 and Doris was born in February 1938.

I went for walks with my mummy along the Rhine and visited relatives like the Honis in Hadamar.

Things had changed though. I was no longer allowed to use the swimming pool, go to the parks or eat in restaurants since these were now forbidden to Jews. Anti semitism was now making normal life impossible but it was about to get much worse.

Konzentrationslager
Buchenwald
Post Weimar / Thür.

Auszug aus der Lagerordnung:

Jeder Häftling darf im Monat 2 Briefe oder 2 Postkarten empfangen und auch absenden. Die Briefseiten müssen übersichtlich und gut lesbar sein. Postsendungen, die diesen Anforderungen nicht entsprechen, werden nicht zugestellt bzw. befördert. Pakete jeglichen Inhalts dürfen nicht empfangen werden. Geldsendungen sind zulässig; es kann im Lager alles gekauft werden. Nationalsozialistische Zeitungen sind zugelassen, wenn dieselben unter Streifband direkt vom Verlag geschickt werden.

Der Lagerkommandant.

Meine genaue Anschrift:

Schuhhäftling

Max Wein

Nr. 7329

Block 33

Konz. = L. Buchenwald
Post Weimar / Thür.

Sendung ohne Nr. & Block nicht zustellbar

am 20. Juni 1938

Der Tag der Entlassung kann jetzt noch nicht angegeben werden.
Anfragen sind zwecklos.

Mein lieber Doris

Liebes! Liebes Mütter

4. Frau!

Nur die Seiten befehlen!

Leider habe ich auf mein letztes Schreiben

wird keine Antwort erhalten und bin dieser

halb sehr beunruhigt. Ich hoffe sehr das

Ihr gesund seid, was auch bei mir der Fall

ist. Ich finde mich, das die Auswanderungs-

frage soweit geregelt ist, wobei wir uns



Max and Doris
June 1938

Kristallnacht November 10th 1938



Since Max had been sent to Buchenwald Concentration Camp Lotte often came to visit us with her little daughter Doris who was now nearly 2 years old. They were with us on that fateful morning of 10 November. It was quite early in the morning when I heard several uniformed men storming into our little flat. My mother rushed me out into the street. I was unaware of what horror there was to await me when we returned, the time factors are blurred in my mind, but when we did, those men had smashed everything we possessed, cups and plates, cupboards broken, our bedclothes and clothes slashed and my only toy, a much loved small dolls house broken to bits.

The very few possessions we had, all necessities for everyday living were destroyed. I do not remember my mother crying nor me. I think we were too terrified of what was to happen next.

We were told that within a few hours we all would be taken away to a Concentration Camp.

I had no idea what that would be, my mother having sheltered me always as much as possible; also those things were never talked about in case someone would overhear us. My most vivid recollection of that day is of afterwards standing in the dark hall of our little flat. My mother had gathered a few things, I never knew what, to take with us, and so we waited what must have been hours, too scared even to speak among ourselves. I remember baby Doris crying for milk but there was none. I shall always remember that, and the total devastation and the terrible fear of worse to come.

Outside in the Bahnhofstr there were uniformed men with Alsatian dogs.

Afterwards my sister caught pneumonia and for a year lost her speech.

The four guardians of German culture today: they



HERMANN GOERING.—Economic dictator of Germany. Went straight from school to become a fighting pilot in the war. After the war, was inmate of a mental home in Sweden. A Swedish court decided he was not fit to have custody of the children of his first marriage. He once said: "When I hear the word culture, I push back the safety catch of my revolver." First man to think that guns are better than butter.

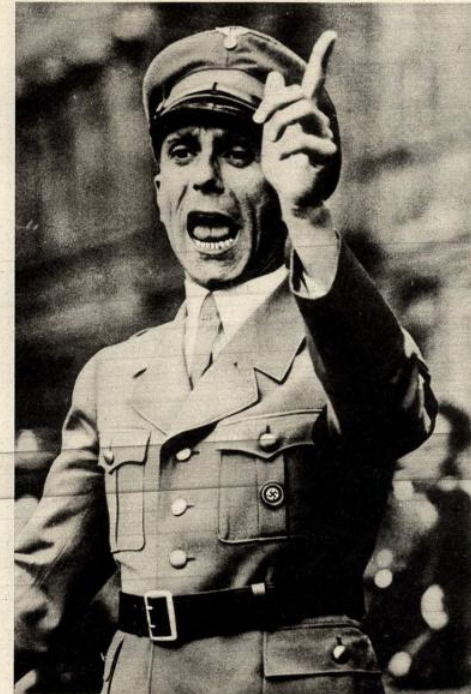


JULIUS STREICHER.—Nazi boss of Franconia, Jew-baiter No. 1. Owner of the notorious "Stuermer." A former schoolmaster who was expelled from his profession. Boasted in a speech: "Accompanied by several other members of the party, I went into Steinruck's cell, and found a miserable object whining and behaving like a schoolboy. I gave him a good thrashing with my whip." Suffers from epileptic fits.

shield its purity from the "contaminated race."



ADOLF HITLER.—Chancellor and Führer. A former housepainter, his only education an Austrian elementary school, where he was a dull pupil. Speaks no language but German, writes ungrammatical German, declares that he reads only what he knows will please him to read. Two months ago, said the "terrible sufferings" of the Sudeten Germans could no longer be tolerated by Germany, and would be stopped at the cost of war.



PAUL GOEBBELS.—Minister for Propaganda and Enlightenment. Entitled to call himself "doctor," he is one of the few Nazi leaders with a University education. Owes his academic distinctions to studies under Dr. Gundolf, a Jewish professor at Heidelberg University. His wife, a Belgian war refugee, was adopted and brought up by a Jewish family in Berlin. He says all Jews must be eliminated from German life.



Anti-Jewish signs on a Jewish clothing-shop in Vienna. One on the left says that the owner is on holiday in Dachau concentration camp.

BACK TO THE

A fortnight ago persecution on a scale unknown even in Germany

It was November 7, on which Herschel Grynsban, 17-year-old Polish Jew, shot Vom Rath, Counsellor at the German Embassy in Paris. Vom Rath died in Paris on the afternoon of November 9. Almost simultaneously the German government in Berlin issued the first of its decrees against the Jews, which must have been prepared before Vom Rath died. These ordered all Jewish newspapers to stop publication. All Jewish cultural and educational associations were to be dissolved.

On the same day, two synagogues were burnt down in different parts of Germany, and there was a small demonstration against the Jews in Berlin.

Early in the morning of November 10, after the beer-halls and cafes had closed, bands of young Nazis, acting simultaneously in towns all over Germany, set fire to synagogues, desecrated Jewish religious vestments and books, smashed the windows of Jewish shops, harried, beat and stoned Jewish people in the

MIDDLE AGES

broke out against the Jews. Here is a brief factual record

streets, and began widespread arrests of Jews.

Later that day began the worst pogrom since the Middle Ages. Looting went on all over Germany and Austria. The houses of Jews were broken into, children were dragged from their beds, women were beaten, men arrested and taken to concentration camps. Foreign journalists were prevented, as far as possible, from gathering details, but it is known that in Berlin several Jews were stoned to death. In the provinces, the number must have been higher.

The police did not interfere. The fire brigades turned their hoses only on non-Jewish buildings. All Jews in the streets or in wrecked shops, who were not manhandled, were arrested. In Munich, 10,000 Jews were rounded up and ordered to leave within 48 hours. This order was later rescinded, but not before hundreds of terrified Jews had run into the forests to hide from the mobs. In Vienna and the Sudetenland, Jews were

Continued on page 19



The damage the Jews were called upon to make good—pillaged shops in a Berlin street. Two of the passers-by smile over their destruction.



zum Andenken
an Deine
liebste Freundin

~~Emma~~ - Ruth
Löwenther.

Koblenz, den
2. August
1939.



Kristallnacht changed everything. I was now forbidden to go to school and could only play with my Jewish friends. For my mother the only priority was to get me out of Germany to a place of safety. Max had managed to get a Visa to go to the USA where he had relatives who were prepared to guarantee that he would not be a burden on the state. He left in May and Lotte and Doris would follow him as soon as she was better. By August they were gone too. It was by now almost impossible to get another country to accept German Jews. No one wanted Jewish refugees.

I spent my days with Mummy, Ruth and Rolf. The delicatessen that we spent such good times in had been smashed and looted. They were my best friends. I kept their photos all my life.

"Erste Liebe"

Rolf - my "first love"

Denmark

Liebe Lotte!

Kalundborg d. 8.12.39



11. habe ich vorgestern er-
dir recht herzl. dafür. Es tut
Brief, wo ich Dir H. Wolff's
voren gegangen ist. Also er
e mit Venenerzündung

wurde musste er in's Kran-
kurt bekam er noch Herzen
einem Herzschlag. Es war s

Da Du lb. Lotte meintest ich wie man offen



How did I end up in Denmark?

My mother's desperate efforts to get me out of Germany led her to contact the Danish Women's League for Peace and Freedom, an organisation working with Youth Aliyah to rescue German Jewish children.

The League, under the untiring leadership of Melanie Oppenheim and Thora Dugaard, had pressured the Danish Government to accept 300 German children. They had raised the funds and found over 270 foster homes. They also obtained guarantees from the British Government that they would issue visas to allow them to travel on to Palestine.



Thora Dugaard

In July they finally obtained permission for the children to enter Denmark but due to bureaucratic difficulties in both Denmark and Germany it was not until September 3rd, three days after the war began, that the children arrived in Denmark.

Anti-Semitic lobbying in Denmark led the Government to insist that the children could not live together in one location but had to live in separate locations throughout the country so that is why I found myself with the Andreassen family in Kalundborg, a small town in the west of Zealand.

We were known as the League Children

The original plan was that I should have gone on a transport to Eretz on September 6th but 8 days before the departure the Palestine Office asked me if I might be willing to use Denmark for 4-5 weeks as an interim station, but there wasn't much hope. When we received no more news, Mummy no longer believed in it. On the Saturday morning the 2nd of September, when I was about to go to the synagogue at 9 o'clock as usual, I went to meet the post, which brought me a telegram. I didn't bother with it and went to the synagogue. When I got home my suitcases were packed and I had to leave within 3 hours with the closed transport that was supposed to go to Eretz. I travelled without a visa.

The farewell was very hard,

I didn't want to go at all. The next morning I met the other children in Berlin. There was so little security that I got through without a visa. It was all so sudden.

Mummy didn't want to let me go.

The next day all the borders were closed. I only just escaped in time.

Lieber Mose, Totte und Liebelindchen! Kalundborg d. 25.9.39
Mit Eurem Brief vom 18. ds. M. habe ich mich sehr gefreut und danke ich Euch recht herzlich dafür. Ich habe mich ganz schrecklich gefreut, dass ich der lb. Mutti endlich schreiben konnte, dass ich von Euch gute Nachricht habe, ich habe Ihr den Brief geschickt. Da ich jeden Morgen den Briefträger gefragt hatte ob er Post von England für mich habe, kam er mir heute entgegen und rief schon von weitem Brief von England, meine Freude war unbeschreiblich. Ich freue mich, dass es Euch so weit ganz gut geht, dasselbe kann ich auch von mir berichten. Mutti geht es so einigermaßen, wie sie schreibt.

Du lb. Mose wüchtest gerne wissen, wie ich her gekommen bin. Ich sollte doch am 6.9.39 nach Erez mit dem Transport. 8 Tage vor der Abfahrt fragte das Palästina - Amt an, ob ich eventuell bereit sei 4-5 Wochen Dänemark als Zwischenland zu benutzen, aber es sei noch nicht viel Hoffnung vorhanden. Als wir keine Nachricht mehr bekamen, glaubte Mutti schon nicht mehr daran. Als ich am Samstag morgen 9 Uhr in die Syna gehen wollte, gehe ich, wie immer der Post entgegen, die ein Telegramm für mich brachte. Ich kümmerte mich nicht darum, sondern ging in die Syna. Als ich nach Hause kam waren meine Koffer gepackt und ich musste in 3 Stunden abfahren mit dem geschlossenen Transport, der nach Erez gehen sollte. Ich bin ohne Visum gefahren. Der Abschied ist mir sehr schwer gefallen, ich wollte überhaupt nicht fahren. Am anderen Morgen traf ich mich mit den anderen Kindern in Berlin. Die Kontrolle war so wenig, sodass ich ohne Visum durchkam. Es kam alles so plötzlich. Mutti wollte mich garnicht weglassen.

These are the letters that I wrote to my sister Lotte when I was in Denmark.

17 Sept 1939

Dear Lotte, we wish you all the best and most of all that you completely regain your health soon, that is what I wish you with all my heart. I hear from Mummy that she hasn't heard from you for 3 weeks either. Why don't you write to me? I am very concerned that you aren't answering my letter. Reading in the morning and many other things have come to an end, but that's all right. I am learning Ivrit 3 times a week, 3 to 4 hours on each occasion. For the time being I can't go to Eretz, perhaps in 2 years. I hope I'll know enough Ivrit by then to earn something and not have to ask Kobi for every penny. I can see myself that it's high time I learnt something. How did you spend the festivals? Belatedly I wish you all the best for the coming year and above all health and good luck in all respects. Is dear Max still in the camp? The food here is very good, tonight we are having pigeon, sometimes there is also chicken.

Dear Mummy is so-so, she often has to go to the cellar. On Sunday night she was there from [?] o'clock till morning. We get 1.50 Marks pocket money for a whole month from the Committee and the International League for Peace and Freedom. A letter costs 30 Pfennigs and as I have to pay it myself I can't make ends meet, but I have asked Kobi for pocket money. He has been over there for almost 8 years by now and is earning, but for me he has never more than fine words, now that he doesn't have to feed me he can do something. When you write to me please send me a note if possible.

For now I send you love and kisses and wish you a very happy birthday, Your Irene.

Please write more often!!!

Oct 11 1939

I have lost hope of seeing all of you again and don't know what to do. I would choose to do without every good thing in life if only I could see you all soon. I have nobody in Eretz who will make me welcome. I think to Kobi and Lore I am a burden, otherwise they would have done something for us in 6 years, as you yourself write, dear Max. But if I can I will go to work there and will not shrink from any work to avoid having to beg for every mouthful of bread. In these 5 weeks here I have learnt more than in my whole life. I have also learnt to work and to appreciate more than ever. I am very worried. She is certainly having a rotten time. It's a sin of Kobi not to help even though he certainly could. He doesn't know yet that the writing is on the wall in spite of his "good brain". I am very angry with him.

You know Anshel, who also wanted to go to Erez - he has committed suicide.

Dear Lotte, I am very glad that you don't have to have an operation, I ask this from Gd every night and He will not leave my prayers unheard.

It's all fate, and what a hard fate.

I don't know where I am going.

I

Liebe Lotte!
Kalundborg d. 8.12.39
Deinen lb. Brief vom 27.11. habe ich vorgestern erhalten, und danke ich Dir recht herzl. dafür. Es tut mir sehr leid, dass der Brief, wo ich Dir H. Wolff's Kranksein mitteilte, verloren gegangen ist. Also er lag erst 8 Tage zu Hause mit Venenentzündung und Magenschmerzen. Als es aber nicht besser wurde musste er in's Krankenhaus, "Marienhof", dort bekam er noch Herzschwäche und starb an einem Herzschlag. Es war so plötzlich alles. - Da Du lb. Lotte meintest ich solle mal offen schreiben, so will ich es auch tun. Also 1. dürfen die deutschen Juden abends nach 8 Uhr nicht mehr vor die Türe gehen, sondern müssen im Hause sein, ebenso hörte ich das, was Du mir auch über Polen schriebst, aus hiesigen Zeitungen. Es wird wohl vorläufig s.g. w. noch nicht sein, denn das wäre doch furchtbar. Wenn doch der Rusche schon in Brusselhüde wäre, ob er so schnell

I
plante geht, ist noch fraglich. Hitler hat doch bald genug Elend gebracht, der ganze Krieg ist doch seine Schuld. Ich habe etwas mehr den Brief ab zu schicken, hoffentlich kommt er gut ein. Wenn nur mit Mutti nichts passiert. Was hältst Du davon wenn Mutti mit einem i. Transport nach Erez reist. Wenn sich die Möglichkeit bietet was sehr wahrscheinlich ist, so geht sie vielleicht, denn Kopf ist schlimm, und s.g. w. geht alles gut. Was rätst Du?? Anders kommt sie nie raus. Ich werde auch vorläufig noch hier bleiben müssen, so schwer es mir auch fällt, denn in einem Paradies bin ich ja nicht, und wie oft wird man angeschnauzt ohne Grund, und man kann sich noch nicht mal wehren wie unzufrieden und verlaut war ich zu Hause, das Gegenteil wird man gelehrt. Heute ist der 1. Chanukhataag, aber leider merke ich nichts davon, sondern im Gegenteil ist Frau Andrievan

Oct 14 1939 I am fairly OK. I suffer a lot from what I didn't learn at home. I am not spoiled here and must do everything the people tell me to do, not like with Mummy. The people here have no heart. Unfortunately one depends on them and one must put up with anything. Tomorrow I am supposed to go to Copenhagen with them to a confirmation where I don't understand anything and don't know anyone. I have no nice things here either, but I must go precisely because I don't want to, they have no heart at all for a person. I have cried, begged, implored, but must go with them precisely because I don't want to. The journey from here to Copenhagen takes 3 hours; they could really save the fare. They don't know how they annoy me. You know how at home I couldn't be told what to do by anybody, and here I must do what strangers tell me. Mummy inflicts on me all the people I am to write to, Markus, the Lindners, Monchen Gladbach, Lieschen, you can thank your lucky stars that it's forbidden, otherwise she would do the same to you.

By now, I had met two other children who escaped from Germany to Denmark, Ilse and Uschi. Soon after I had arrived the Andreasons they bought me a bicycle but in November Mr Andreassen fell off his bike and hurt himself quite badly. Mummy keeps writing to me to be careful on my bike, keep warm, eat well, be good to my foster family, drink peppermint tea for my periods, play the piano and learn Ivrit and Danish.

Dec 1939 Dear Lotte, as you suggested that I should write openly I will do so. Well then, German Jews are no longer allowed to walk out of their doors after 8 o'clock in the evening, but must stay in their houses; similarly I have read in newspapers here what you had also written to me about Poland. Gd. willing, it will not happen for the time being, because that would be terrible. Hitler has brought enough misery, the whole war is his fault. What do you think if Mummy went to Eretz with an illegal transport? If there is the opportunity, which is very likely, she may go because it is bad and, Gd willing, everything goes well. What do you advise??? Otherwise she will never get out. I'll have to stay here for the time being, however hard it is for me, because I am not in a Paradise; how often am I shouted at for no reason, and can't even defend myself; how dissatisfied and rude I was at home, and now I am taught the opposite. Today is the 1st day of Hanukkah, but unfortunately I am hardly aware of it, on the contrary, Mrs Andreassen is broiges because I went for a walk this afternoon, and she no longer answers me. It really isn't a nice life, and it's entirely the fault of that bastard. Did you notice Hanukkah at all? There is anti-Semitism here too, but so far very little.

For Hanukkah I have had 12 eggs, 2 kg of butter and 2 kg of cheese sent to Mummy by a shop and will send another 2 kg of butter as soon as I have the money, because she can't get any there.

I am learning a lot of good Ivrit, and also Danish, in which I can carry on conversations very well. Do you speak English fluently now? Do you remember how Mummy always tried to teach us, but in the country one learns it a lot quicker, and in the country one learns in 4 months what in Germany one takes 3 or 4 years to learn.

To the Promised Land!

This is how the first 50 took off. Our pictures show the 25 who left in the last aircraft, and the friends who had gathered to say goodbye to them. Now they go en route for "The Promised Land".

The centre page spread shows a little more about the conditions that they will encounter when they arrive in "The Promised Land". On the 19th of January 1940 two brown Dutch aircraft wait at Kastrup airport to take the first 50 of our young Jewish guests out of the country - to Amsterdam from where they will travel on to Palestine.

It was at twilight when they leapt, one by one, out of the coach - a tired little Ford.

They had gone to bed late, after a farewell party in the Jewish Community house where many lovely words were spoken to them and where one of the boys gave this little speech.

"Up until now, we had been accustomed to be considered a second-class people but here in Denmark we have learned that there are people who do not differentiate between races. When we are in Palestine they can be sure that we will often think of the Danish national anthem "There is a lovely country."

Now they were standing, waiting in the modern airport hall.

Was it really the same bunch of children that on the 3 Sept, pale and exhausted, had wolfed down their first Danish open sandwiches and could not get enough of our thick Danish milk?

These fresh, round faces, were they really the same group that we welcomed then?

He had a suitcase in his hand and a thick winter coat on. "Do you still recognize me?" I mentioned his name - I remembered him well.

On his arrival, when his name was read out, he was told to check in his luggage. "I have no luggage", he said. "Perhaps it has been sent as freight?" He was asked. "No - I have none." He replied.

"I only have what I have on," he replied as he sat there with his legs crossed - small and tenuous, in a thin Polo Blouse and with a wind cheater hanging loose over his shoulders.



MEDELSELSBLAD FOR KVINDERNES INTERNATIONALE LIGA FOR FRED OG FRIHED — DANSK AFDELING

Nummer 2 Februar 1940 Aargang 17

Mod det forjættede Land!



Saa fjø de første 50. Vore Billeder viser de 25, der gik med den sidste Flyvemaskine, og Vennerne, der havde samlet sig for at vinkle Farvel til dem. Det gik altsaa nu mod det forjættede Land! Vi henviser til Artiklen paa Midtersiden, der fortæller lidt om Forholdene, der møder dem i „det forjættede Land“.



Dragsue og Pige fra Ungdoms-Altsen fundes ved Ankomsten til Palæstina mellem forskellige Leveforhold. En stor Del bliver sendt til et af jødiske kolonier i Sandhed for at lære Landbrug. De hollandske her der havde Dag og nat, den havde ved træerne Arbejde.

De første 50 Jøde-Børns Afrejse.

Den 19. Januar, paa en klar og kold Morgen, ventede i Kastrup Flyvebanen to brune hollandske Flyvemaskiner paa at bringe de første 50 af vore unge jødiske Gæster ud til Landet — til Amsterdam, hvorfra de skulde rejse videre til Palæstina.

Det var endnu i Dæmningen, da de én efter én kom ned af Bålen — lidt trætte, fordi de var kommet sent i Seng efter en Afrejselyst i den jødiske Menigheds Hus, hvor der blev sagt mange smukke Ord til dem, og hvor ogsaa en af Drengene holdt en lille Tale. „Held!



I Øvre-Galilea er der, nærliggende til Løbet af det sidste Aar, grundlæggende jødiske Landbrugsskoler. Disse er i Landet er stans, og Jøden, som har lært sig selv i mange Aarhundreder, lever et godt Liv, men meget mere som det er muligt. Vore Børn, som vi vil jødiske Chulonen (Pionerer) i Fordi end af bringe en Bøj paa Vej til Ditte.

I DET FORJÆTTET LAND

havde vi været vant til at blive betragtet som en anden Klasse Mennesker, men her i Danmark har vi lært, at der findes Folk, der ikke gør Forskel mellem Racerne. Og naar vi er i Palæstina, saa kan De være sikker paa, at vi vil tænke paa den danske Nationalhæd: Der er et yndigt Land!

Nu stod de i Lufthavnens moderne Hal og ventede. Var det virkelig den samme Flod Børn, der den 3. September bleve og adsmittede havde sagt det første danske Smørrebrød, og ikke kunde få nok af den røde danske Mælk? Disse runde, friske Ansigter, var det virkelig de samme? En frisk Fyr hilste paa os. Han havde en Kuffert i Haanden og en råk Vinterfrakke paa. „Kender De mig igen?“ sagde han og smilte sig. Navn. Jeg hukkede det godt. „Jeg har ingen Bagage“, havde han rørt ved Ankomsten i sin Tid, da deres Navne blev læst op, fordi man skulde ordne deres Bagage. „Er det maaske sendt pr. Fragtgodt?“ havde man spurg. „Nej — jeg har ingen. Jeg har kun det, jeg har paa“ — og han havde stillet med Bæsnere over Kæben — lille og spinkel i en tynd Polo-Bluse og med en Vindfrakke hængende løst over Skuldrene.

Fra Vi, deres hollandske Ledelsesrådgivere, Bøjtede, og Børnene blev stillet op i en lang Række efter Altsen, og mens de første 25 kom efter kvindene ind i Flyvemaskinen, stod Resten tilbage og ventede i Hallen.

Hvad fæle disse Børn!

„Jeg synes hele Tiden, at jeg skal vaagne!“ sagde en Dreng til mig. „Inde her har jeg ventet paa, at der maatte komme noget i Vejen, men nu — — jeg kan slet ikke forestå, at vi

saa virkelig rejser til Palæstina“, og eftermænksonen saa han gennem Vinduet ud paa Flyvepladsen. „Ja, jeg bliver ganske bestemt sørgt!“ raabte en sørtæret Pige, og ved Siden af hendes stod en lille en og hoppede fra det ene Ben til det andet. Hans Ansigt var et reent Lykkeløst, og Øjnene stak sig ud som Brillaglasser. Han sagde intet, men jeg gættede i ham Drengen, som ved Ankomsten i sin Tid meget alvorlig havde spurg. „Er det jødiske Familier, vi kommer til?“ „Nej. Og efter en lille Pauser: „Er de tvungne til at tage os, eller gør de det frivilligt?“

— — —

Lidt senere stod et rødmodret Pigebarn med store Øjne og smukkede med sin Pigebrøder, der var kommet for at sige Farvel. Pindslidende kørte hun sig om Halsen paa broder, og Tænderne løb ned ad broderens Kinder. „Farvel, Mor, og mange mange Tak! Og kils dem alle sammen!“ sagde hun paa Dansk.

— Nu var Klokkeren blevet ødt, og den første Maskine startede, og de 10 Minutter senere ogsaa den anden stod klar til Afgang. gik en klar, rød Sol op bag ved det hvite, tilsvarende Sund og farvede Pladsen rød.

Vi trak Løsmestereklædningen frem. Børnene klækkede og vinkede opmærksomt de ansaa Vindrudder, saa begynde Motoren at rumpe. Procellerne stansede, og den store Flugt rullede fra os hen ad Jorden, hævdede sig og blev mindre og mindre, indtil den forsvandt for vore Øjne — forsvandt med en Flod Menneskebørn, der var paa Vej til det Land, de troede paa!

En Tidstue.



Fra en Landbrug i unge Piger i Palæstina indes her omkring det Indes af Kvindemagtenen WIZO (Women International Zionist Organization). Der udføres i Landbrug og Kjøbenhavn, Berlingske, Voks, Gæster og Paastrig af Hænder m. m. Efter endt Udførelse gæser tre Pionerer af Børnene over i de kollektive jødiske Landbrugsskoler.



Den jødiske kollektive Landbrugsskole i Haicholot, der hovedsagelig er bebodt af arabiske Pionerer. Det nye Bygning til højre i Billedet er skolekøkkenet, der ogsaa tjener til Børnenes Hus. Vagterhuset og Pionerens er bygget ved Udførelsen af de tidligere Kolonier.

After nearly 5 months, on the 18th of January 1940, without any notice, we were taken to Copenhagen and put on an airplane to Amsterdam. My time in Denmark had come to an end. Looking back I now realize what a wonderful thing the Andreaseens had done and how well they had looked after me. Without their kindness I would have been taken away and killed, like my friend Ruth.



These two photos were taken in Denmark in 1940.

Me and Mrs Andreasen in the centre.
and me with Mrs Nielsen, their neighbour.



Here I am on the 2nd from the left about to board the flight from Copenhagen to Amsterdam.



On 18 January I travelled from Kalundborg to Copenhagen and from there by plane to Amsterdam and then by train through Belgium to Paris, where we spent the night.

The next day we continued to Marseille, where we stayed 2 days till the departure of the ship. We then sailed for 8 days on a French steamer, which was completely taken up by French soldiers.

It was one of the transports taking troops from France to Syria. We docked in Beirut and continued from there to Haifa, where we spent the night. The next day I took the bus to Tel-Aviv.

In January 1940, the Palestine that I arrived in was in an uneasy state.

The British Government had been in control since the end of the First World War. There had been continual conflict between Jews, Arabs and the British and in 1939 tensions were further inflamed when Jewish immigration to Palestine was again limited by the British who feared further communal strife between the Arabs and the Jews.

By May I had been in Palestine for nearly 4 months. I was just 14 years old.

On the 10th May 1940 Germany invaded France and the war began in earnest.

I still wrote to my mother but only my letters to Lotte have survived.

11 May 1940 I am very sad because Mummy no longer has the opportunity to get out. I would never have imagined that this would be the situation and I left home thinking that Mummy would soon follow. I have also believed that she would get out, but now I am very pessimistic. It's a disgrace that Mummy is so alone in Germany. Please try to find out if there isn't some way out after all.

June 1940 From Mummy I don't hear anything anymore and it makes me very sad. A little while ago I received her last letters, in one of them she wrote that we should do all we could to get her out, and it was very urgent. Those were her words, but unfortunately I can't help her any more.

I am going to school for three more weeks and then I'll be going to the school of life. That is, I'll go to an agricultural school, probably for three years, you study agriculture and you eat and sleep there. It was not possible for me to learn a profession because Kobi can't keep me any longer and so I will go there to start with, perhaps I'll be able to learn something after two years. Kobi is going to pay the school costs, so the question of my occupation is resolved for the time being.

Unfortunately the big crate that Mummy sent me with all the linen, clothes, cutlery and everything she saved for my future is in Denmark and I will probably never see it again. It will probably be similar with yours in Holland, or have you had an opportunity to get them out of Holland? I am very cross that my crate didn't come straight here.

Dear Lotte, do you speak English well now? I don't speak English well yet. Here a lot of Yiddish is also spoken because a terribly large number of Polacks live here, almost more than Germans.

It's often unbearably hot, there are days when one can hardly step out of one's front door, particularly on those days when the hot sand of the desert is blowing, then one can hardly bear it and one can't step out of the door without covering one's head. but the greatest heat doesn't start till July.

Meine liebe Lotte und lieber Nase!

Ramataim d. 19.11.

Zunächst allen Koral. Dank für Euren und Mutti's Brief. Wo es mich erreicht, sieht Du ja selbst, und kann ich Dir garnicht alles schreiben. Zunächst bin ich sehr glücklich, mal wieder von Euch Nachricht zu haben. Obwohl ich durch diese Nachricht unsagbar traurig bin, denn die Mutti tut mir so leid. Wie Ihr gleich lesen werdet, geht es mir auch nicht glänzend, aber Mutti ist leider von uns am schlimmsten dran.

Ich bin seit 2 Monaten hier in einer "Arbeitsniederung", angeblich zum dernen, d.h. auf deutsch zum Schuftan, und nun ausgenutzt zu werden. Also: Nach allem was in Tel. wie bei Kobi war, wollte und sollte ich weg, was war, werde ich Euch nachher schreiben. Es fand sich kein schneller Ausweg, als ich hier bei einer Familie "Lasse", und 3 Stunden arbeite. Also ohne zu wissen wohin ich bin, und kam zu einer Familie mit 1 Zimmer u. Küche und 2 Kinder, einen 13-jährigen Jungen und ein 13-jähriges Mädchen. Es waren Russen, aber schon 10 Jahre im Land. Ich schlief mit den "Kindern" zusammen. Eines Nachts überwältigte mich der Junge, und eine deutsche Familie nahm mich, als ich von den Leuten wegkam am Morgen, am Nachhause auf. Ach, ich kann Dir sagen es ist alles so furchtbar, dass Ihr die ersten seid, denen ich so alles erzähle, denn hier habe ich keinen, u. Kobi bin ich nur eine Last. - Jetzt ist es folgendes: massen. Ihr kennt hier die Juden, dass mein Unglück nutzen sie sehr aus, u. schufte ich ausser 3 Std. am Tag, den ganzen Tag. Ich arbeite ganz gemeine grobe Arbeit. Hb. mit mit den Händen eingraben, ich arbeite schwer, und 3 Std. am Tag muss ich Lora und Tenad lernen, was Du lb. Lotte wohl nie lernst. Eben "bringe ich miserabel, ich esse in einer Schulküche, und laufe 4 Std. dorthin durch wasserhaken Sand. Ich bekomme selten warmes Essen, und werde kaum satt. Dazu die schwere Arbeit, die Du lb. Lotte G.D. nie kennen lernst. Du weinst nicht was es heist mit 15 Jahre schwere Feldarbeit zu machen. Ja, das ist Palästina! Die Leute behandeln mich wie ein Dienstmädchen. Sie ist ja ganz nett, aber es schreit mich an, wie einen Knecht. Nun sieht Ihr, was für ein "selbst" ich habe. Aber jetzt habe mich schon etwas eingewöhnt. Obwohl ich noch immer mitmache, wird es mir allmählich alles gleichgültig. Es soll eben so sein, dass ich schwer arbeiten muss. Alles was ich zu Hause nicht hören wollte, sorgen mir jetzt fremde, und das ist 100x schlimmer. Oft meine ich, dafür, dass ich zu Hause so bis und faul was ist es jetzt so. Aber glaubt mir, ich bereue es immer immer wieder, dass ich zu Hause so undankbar war, und nie folgen wollte. Oh, ich sehe alles so ein, und liege ich oft und weine weil ich so viel Unrecht getan habe.

Der Brief ist mal wieder 2 Wochen liegen geblieben, u. hat sich bei mir viel

Was macht das Liebes? Ich möchte es so gerne mal abhau-b-sien. Ist es gross geworden? Jetzt wird es ja bald 8 Jährchen alt. Dem Geburtstag werde ich Euch noch schreiben. Wie spricht es jetzt? Ist es noch so froh? Wie geht es Dir lb. Lotte gesundheitlich??? Schreibe mir doch bitte auch mal alles. Nun für heute viele innige Küsse aus weiten fern

Eure Nena.

18 Jan 1941

First, I am very happy to have news from you once again, although this news makes me unspeakably sad because I am so sorry for Mummy. As you will read in a moment, I am not in a brilliant state either, but unfortunately Mummy is in the worst predicament of all of us.

I have been here in a "Workers' Settlement" for 2 months, allegedly in order to learn, which means in German in order to toil and to be exploited. Here goes. After all that happened at Kobi's in Tel-Aviv I wanted and needed to get away, I'll write to you later what it was. We couldn't find a quicker solution than "learning" with a family here and working for three hours. So I fled without knowing where and found myself with a family and one room and kitchen and two children, a boy of 18 and a girl of 13. They were Russians, but have been in the country for 10 years. I had to sleep in the same room as the "children".

One night the boy overpowered me, and when I ran away from these people in the morning, a German family took me in out of rachmones. O, everything is so awful that you are the first I tell it all because I have nobody here and for Kobi I am only a burden. Now the situation is as follows. You know the Jews here, how they exploit my misfortune and apart from the three hours, I toil all day. I do quite common work. E.g. digging in manure with my hands, I work hard and three hours a day I "must" learn Torah and Tenach, which you probably never had to learn, dear Lotte. The food I get is rotten, I eat in a school kitchen and walk there for 1/2 an hour through sand metres high. I rarely get hot food and hardly ever enough. In addition the hard work that you, dear Lotte, never knew.

You don't know what it means to do hard work in the fields at 15. Yes, this is Palestine.

The people treat me like a servant. She is quite nice, but he yells at me as if I was a slave. Now you see what kind of "life" I have. But by now I have got used to it to some extent. Although I still suffer, I am gradually becoming indifferent to everything. Perhaps it has to be like this and I was meant to do hard labour. Now I am told by strangers all the things I didn't want to hear at home and that is a hundred times worse. I often think that I am now paying for having been so stropky and lazy at home. But believe me, I regret again and again that I was so ungrateful at home and never wanted to obey. O, I see it all now and often lie crying because I did so much wrong.

26 Feb 1941

I am still here with those people and expecting to leave for the home in Jerusalem any day. It took me a fight to get there, because Kobi was determined to send me to a kibbutz. Unfortunately I can't learn a practical occupation. If it becomes financially possible I want to train as a neonatal nurse in 2 years' time. But who knows how things will be by then - I am rather miserable. I have almost fallen out with Kobi, he writes me a few words once a month. You must have understood that from my last letter. As far as dear Mummy is concerned. I am desperate, particularly because I don't know where she is. I would so much want to help her and, sadly, I can't. I miss Mummy so badly, but I mustn't think of her. Help her, wherever she may be, perhaps she could join you, that's what matters most, because I have almost no prospect of getting out of here. As soon as I am in Jerusalem I'll make inquiries at the American consulate, because unfortunately Kobi can't be relied on. As soon as you hear something of Mummy write to me because I am so restless and desperate. I have nobody I can talk to and so I bottle up everything in myself.

Meine liebe Lotte, lieber Ruse u. liebe große Derris!

1.5.41 North Talpist near Jerusalem.

Schon lange haben wir nichts voneinander gehört, und habe ich Euch heute viel zu erzählen. Zunächst habt Ihr meine Briefe erhalten??

Wie geht es Euch? Hört Ihr von der lb. Mutti? Wie Ihr seht, so bin ich mal wieder woanders, als wie früher, nämlich in einem Kinderheim d. h. das ist hier kein Vergleich mit Heimen in D. Ich bin hier bei Jerusalem in einem Heim für Mädchen u. Jungen von 12-15 Jahren, die mit der Jugendalijah ohne Eltern u. Beschwoche ins Land kamen. Wir lernen 4 Stunden am Tag, jedoch leider nur Lesen, wie hier in fast allen Schulen, sonst lerne ich leider nichts. Wir lernen ~~et~~ 4 Stunden am Tag.

Wir stehen morgens um 6¹⁴ Uhr auf, essen um 7¹⁴ Uhr eine Gries oder Reissuppe $\frac{3}{4}$ Wasser. u. gehen um 8 Uhr zur Arbeit, d. h. nur einige, z. B. die die 2 Häuser aufputzen müssen, dann haben wir 4 Stunden Freizeit am Tag für Schularbeiten, u. nachmittags wird wieder gearbeitet, manche im Haus, im Garten, oder in der Küche. Du siehst es geht mir bedeutend besser, als in Ramataim. Ich soll hier 2 Jahre bleiben. Aber wer weiß was bis dahin sein wird. Ich habe Angst, dass tante Janny mich besuchen kommt, ich kann sie doch soviel Ihr wisst nicht leiden. -

Köbi kommt alle paar Wochen (5-6) zu mir, d. h. nur, wenn er geschäftlich hier zu tun hat. Er ist dann auf 5 Minuten immer nett zu mir.

Ich höre leider immer sehr wenig von Mutti, und sehne ich mich sehr nach ihr, überhaupt habe ich hier so niemand, der mich gern hat.

Auf jeden Fall geht es mir besser wie in Ramataim, u. bin ich fast von dort weg zu sein. Schade ist mir, dass ich fürs Leben nichts richtiges lernen kann, u. wenn ich mit 17 Jahren ^{hier} rauskomme weiß ich nicht, was ich beginnen soll. -

Vor 8 Tagen habe ich an Euch geschrieben, u. hoffe ich, dass der ^{Brief} ange-

29 February 1941 continued:

Of course I have no relatives but am alone, and money - I can't write anything about that. Imagine, I have only one pair of shoes and those are so torn that on the Shabbat I can't show myself in front of the house, not one pair of stockings, next week I am going to the so-called welfare office to ask for a pair of discarded shoes. Such is the life here. If Mummy knew all that is happening to me she would certainly be very sad. I have been here for a year and away from home for a year and a half now. Perhaps at home I would never have come across what I have learnt here in this time. I have grown big and fat. I weigh 55 kg.

I am now just 15 years old.

1 May 1941

Do you hear anything from dear Mummy? As you see, I am again somewhere other than before, namely in a children's home, but there is no comparison with homes in Germany. I am near Jerusalem in a home for girls and boys of 12 to 15 years of age who came to the country with the Youth Aliyah without parents and mishpocha. We learn for four hours a day, but unfortunately only Tenach, otherwise unfortunately I am not learning anything else. We get up at 6:15 in the morning, have a semolina or rice soup at 6:45 and go to work at 7 and clean the two houses, then we have four hours of study and in the afternoon more work in the house, the garden or the kitchen. I am supposed to stay for two years. But who knows what will have happened by then. I am afraid that Aunt Fanny will come to see me because I can't stand her, as you know. Kobi comes to see me every few weeks but only if he has business here. Then he is always nice to me for 5 minutes. Unfortunately I hear very little about Mummy and miss her very much, in fact I have nobody here who is fond of me. In any case I am much better off here than in Ramalaim and am glad to be away from there. It's only a pity that I can't learn anything proper for life and don't know what to do when I get out of here when I am 17.

1 July 1941

I feel very sad about Mummy. I have little hope that she will ever be able to join you, but I would be happy if I could be sure that she could come out to you some time next year. Something that worries me very much is that Mummy refers to me in such a cold tone, when she writes "by the way, you can give my regards to Irene". It's a mystery to me and I am very sad about it.

Kobi has been out of work since yesterday and has not a penny in his pocket. He was given notice from one day to the next by the firm where he had worked for 3 years. He is in a desperate situation. I fear that he will have to work as a baggage carrier or a labourer because they have no food beyond this week. Add to this the smart apartment and Lore's flowers, which she will not do without under any circumstances. I am again sorry for Kobi, he suffers a lot and struggles hard for his bread.

I would very much like to have news about what Ruthchen is doing. Fate is too cruel and it's twice as bad if one can't help one's relatives.

Meine Lieben!

Jerusalem 2. VII. 41.

Eueren lb. Brief vom 24 VI. habe ich mit grosser Freude erhalten, es war der 1. Brief seit langer Zeit. für das Geld danke ich Euch recht herzlich, es ist noch bei Kubi, der mir es hoffentlich bald schickt, ich habe es wirklich sehr nötig, da ich dringend einen Koch brauche, ebenso habe ich noch kein Antwort auf Eueren Brief zu beantworten. Ebenso freute es mich sehr, dass es Euch so gut geht, u. Ihr alle gesund seid.

Ihr wundert Euch sicher, dass ich mich so wenig um eine Registrierungsnummer bemühe, aber es liegt nicht an mir, denn Ihr könnt garnicht glauben, wie gerne ich bei Euch sein möchte, u. wie gerne ich hier raus will, um etwas fürs Leben zu lernen. Nun darf ich 1. nicht in die Stadt, 2. kann ich nicht ohne Ausweis u. ohne englisch ^{nicht} zum Amerikanischen Konsul. Ich habe es Kubi ans Herz gelegt, u. besorgt er mir nach dieser Woche eine Nummer, die ich Euch einsenden werde. Ich wünsche nur, ich könnte schon kommen, ich bin so enttäuscht von Kubis Versprechungen, wie Ihr Euch es kaum denken könnt.

für das Bild vom „Dschalein“ vielen Dank, ich muss es immer wieder anschauen, so süss ist es. So gross wie es ist, u. was für Härariken es hat, es sieht schon richtig wie ein „Dämchen“ aus. Lernt es noch englisch oder kann es schon? Geht es in den Kindergarten? Denkt es noch an die Omi? Ich möchte es so gerne wiederssehen. Ich wunderte mich sehr, dass Ihr Euch ein Auto angeschafft habt. Hier im Land glaub ich gibt

2 August 1941

Many thanks for the money, which is still with Kobi, I hope he will send it to me soon. I really need it because I have to buy a skirt and also because I haven't got the postage to answer your letter. I was very pleased to hear that you are doing well and are in good health.

You are probably surprised that I seem to be making so little effort to get a registration number, but it isn't my fault because you know how much I would like to be with you and get away from here to learn something for my future life. But I am not allowed:

1. To go into town and
2. To see the American Consul without any identification papers or knowledge of English.

I have begged Kobi, and he will get me a number and everything else this week. Then I will forward it all to you. I only wish I could come already. You can't imagine how disappointed I am with Kobi's promises.

As I have written to you, Kobi is in Haifa. I don't know if his office is succeeding, he writes very rarely and never about his income. But he doesn't seem to do very well, otherwise he would behave differently towards me. He didn't even send me anything for my birthday, not even a small parcel with chocolate, which most people here get quite often.

Now something else that depressed me terribly: for the great festivals, e.g. Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, we get ten days' holiday and the return journey wherever we want to go, expenses paid. Those are the only holiday we have had in two years. All the children go away, and I asked Kobi if he might know a place, perhaps in a kibbutz or somewhere else, where I could stay for ten days or if I could stay with him in his boarding house, as Lore is still in Tel-Aviv. After a long reflection I got the answer: "About your holiday, I'll have to think about it". I was speechless. He can't even feed his sister for a few days. I would be unhappy if I had to watch all the children leaving and I would have to stay here. I would never forgive him. From Lore I haven't heard a word for 3 months, nor am I interested in the slightest. Now you can roughly imagine the relations between us. And yet, when Kobi is with me he is always kind and good to me, as long as I don't ask him for anything.

What is dear Mummy doing? I am so terribly homesick for her. Is there no way for her to join you? In a month's time I'll have been apart from her for two years and have meanwhile got to know life thoroughly. Can Mummy write to you? I haven't heard from her for a very long time.

As you see, I am still in the children's home. Meanwhile there are 53 of us children. Life is very monotonous. We learn in school and we work. The food is very bad and the place is very dirty. I, or rather all girls, had lice three weeks ago and we all had our hair cut short. You can imagine the situation more or less. Likewise we have our beds full of bedbugs every morning, a veritable zoo.

I have learnt to work, something that I would never have done at home in the past. Only, I don't know what I will become when I get out of here and am 17 years old. The only option I'll have left will probably be the "Kibbutz", to which I object.

J. Schönewald

Tel-Aviv

Emil-Lolast. 24

1/0 Schöngut

Tel-Aviv d. 29.11.42.

Meine Lieben!

Sehr lange warte ich schon wieder vergebens auf Nachricht von Euch, u. da ich nicht länger warten will, will ich Euch wieder ein wenig von mir erzählen.

Wie Ihr seht bin ich wieder in Tel-Aviv, u. zwar seit $4\frac{1}{2}$ Wochen, u. es ist alles anders gekommen, als ich dachte. Ich habe mich nach der ersten schrecklichen Woche in Tel-Aviv mit Köbi u. Lore wieder ausgesöhnt, u. Köbi bot mir damals seine Hilfe an, die ich annahm, da ich vollkommen herunter u. krank war, ich bekam nämlich zu allem „Schlamassel“ die Gelbsucht.

Da ich auf keinen Fall bei Köbi wohnen wollte mietete ich mir erst ein möbliertes Zimmer, ein sehr mieses für viel Geld, die Leute bewohnen es auch, u. voraussagen ist es nur eine Schlafstätte. Ich wohne nicht weit von Köbi entfernt u. gehe zu Ihnen essen, d. h. nur morgens u. abends denn mittags nehme ich mir nur 2 Brote mit zur Arbeit. - Also ich entschloss mich, da ich Säuglings- u.

I am now 16 years old. The German General Rommel has been defeated by the British at the battle of El Alamein and the threat of a German invasion of Palestine has finally been lifted.

29 Nov 1942

I am back in Tel-Aviv. I have been here a month and everything has turned out different than I expected. After the first terrible week in Tel-Aviv I made peace with Kobi and Lore and Kobi offered to help me, which I accepted because I was completely down and ill. In addition to all the "mess" I got jaundice. As I was on no account going to stay with Kobi I first rented a furnished room, a very grotty one for a lot of money with the owners also living there. Actually there were other people sleeping in the room, which was only a dormitory. I live not far from Kobi and I go to them to eat, that is, only in the morning and evening because at midday I take only two slices of bread to work. - As I couldn't train to be an infant nurse or nurse for financial reasons I decided to learn banking and was lucky enough to get work as an apprentice in a good bank. By now I have been working in the bank for three weeks. The work gives me great pleasure and the people are very good to me. I am learning shorthand by myself and will now also learn English; I can already use a typewriter. The worst thing is being dependent on Kobi and Lore and that I earn only just enough to pay for travelling to work.

I haven't got one penny in my pocket, but I am happy to have my bed and board. I hope that the worst time, that is what I suffered in the last 3 years, is over because I am no longer so little and I am above all too mature to let myself be pushed around and to dance to Kobi's and Lore's moods. I will never again do that and even work as a maid if only I can stand on my own feet. Kobi knows that too, even though we are strangers in spite of everything, i.e. we talk a lot, say Hello and Goodbye to each other, but in place of the great love of the past nothing is left but a brother's and sister's cold sense of duty. I am very lonely, your and Mummy's letters are all I have. You must also be aware of the terrible news from Poland. We want, i.e. Kobi wants, to send a telegram to the Red Cross, although I am absolutely against it, because I am afraid of the answer and I don't want the little hope that I still have to be destroyed. What else should I strive, live and work for? I don't want to live in order to be pushed around at 17 years of age alone, without belonging to anyone, and the worst is that now we really can't help Mummy although it was us who have left her so alone. You can't imagine my fear when I read the paper. Are we going to see each other again one day and what will things be like by then?

This is the time I would need somebody to guide and advise me, but strangers don't understand me.



I worked at the
Kupat Milwe Haoleh Bank
Tel-Aviv

Meine Lieben!

Tel. Aviv 28. 2. 43.

Nun ist es schon über ein halbes Jahr her, seit ich von Euch die letzte Nachricht hatte, u. ^{ich} bin sehr traurig, u. besorgt, dass Ihr nicht schreibt, zumal doch Postverkehr ist. Ich hoffe, dass Ihr aber trotz-
dem gesund u. munter seid. Von der El. Mutti habe auch schon $\frac{3}{4}$ Jahre keine Post, u. zumal man so viel schreckliches aus jenen hört, habe ich nur noch ganz wenig Hoffnung auf ein Wiedersehen mit Mutti.

Wie geht es Euch? Was macht das Liebchen? Ich möchte es so sehr gerne wiederssehen, u. Euch alle auch. S. G. w. ist nächstes Jahr alles vorbei, u. dann sind wir in ein paar Jahren, wenn Ihr könnt, zusammen.

Von mir kann ich Euch nicht viel Neues schreiben.

Ich arbeite immer noch in der Bank, wo die Arbeit mir sehr viel Freude macht. Ich lerne englisch, u. bin sehr fleissig, d. h. ich fülle meine ganze Zeit damit aus, das nach zu holen (so weit es nach geht), was ich aus

Irene Schönewald
Tel. Aviv
Emil - Zolotr. 24 % Schönewald,
Palestine.

Irene Schönewald

28 Feb 1943

From dear Mummy I haven't heard anything either for nearly a year and I have very little hope of seeing her again, especially as we hear such terrible things from Poland.

I would so much like to see all of you again. Gd wlng, the war will be over next year and we'll be together. I am still employed in the bank and enjoying the work. I am learning English and am very industrious, i. e. I fill all my time catching up as far as I can on what I was too lazy to learn earlier. Work and study make me happiest and help me face many ugly things, of which there is plenty here. I still have that room and my relationship with Kobi and Lore is still essentially the same, except that now I am calm and they can say to me whatever they like. Kobi isn't interested in me and lets me live as I like, and we often end up not speaking for days. On the one hand I am glad because at least I have my peace that way, on the other hand I badly miss someone who would advise me and take care of me. I am learning for later and trying to cope with the difficulties. Lore expects a baby in September. They will soon be moving into a bigger flat, I hope a long way from my room, and then I will have my lunch in a snack bar. At the bank my fellow workers are awfully nice to me; in fact wherever I am people like me. I am about to turn 17 and am almost as tall as Kobi. Unfortunately Kobi is not doing well in financial terms, and on top of it he has to keep his parents-in-law although he can't bear them.

I am now 17 years old

27 July 1943

I was ill, and still am. As I am writing to you I am lying in bed with a 39 degree temperature, I have flu and very high fever. Next month I will attend an evening school (business course) with the bank paying half the costs. I am making a big effort to learn English. I am friendly with some English people here, with whom I only speak English, not too well but I manage. As for Lore, thank Gd, I don't see her at all, haven't seen her for half a year. Kobi has grown old. (He is actually only 34). He is having a very hard life and I think he is realising that Lore isn't the right wife for him. He is not even allowed to come and see me. I have no care at all and have been lying in bed with a high fever and nobody looking after me. Kobi isn't allowed, and my other acquaintances don't know. From Mummy I haven't heard anything for 1 year and even Red Cross letters don't arrive. Dear Lotte, sometimes I believe it's better if Mummy no longer has to suffer all this. Lotte, here too the papers reported all about how people were deported, but I simply can't imagine it. You know, Palestine is a hard land and it's very, very difficult to achieve anything here unless you have brought a lot of money with you. Very few people can afford big flats, cars etc. Most people have 1 room and kitchen, i.e. one living room which is also a bedroom. Rich people are rare, except for some who were able to rescue their money from Europe. Here everybody is glad if he has just enough to live on, because life has become terribly expensive. While wages have doubled, the cost of living has gone up fivefold. There is no shortage of work because of the many foreigners who are here. Lotte, although I long to be with you I am glad that you are in America. I hope that I'll be able to come to you after the war and that by then I'll have learnt enough English to get a job in an office. I have quite forgotten to write to you that I have a dreadful walk-through room with other people in it all day and am paying for that so-called half room almost the same as the rent for the whole flat, but here in all Tel-Aviv there is no half or whole room to be had and so people exploit and bully. I don't spend much time in the room, thank Gd, because I work all day and in the evening I go out. The most beautiful thing here is the sea and the beach, and on the Shabbat I always go to the sea.

12 Oct 1943

Today I have two surprises for you.

1. Kobi has a son "Uri Zwi", born on the 10 September. He is a terribly proud Papa; I haven't seen the baby and will never see him.
2. I have enrolled in the military, to be precise, the WAAF - I think you know what that is, a kind of auxiliary unit of the RAF for women. I have already been examined, but will not enter the camp till 23 November, that is, in five weeks. After four weeks training I will leave Palestine. I hope I'll settle in all right. I have been accepted as a Clerk.

I hesitated for a long time before deciding to take this step but I wasn't going anywhere either financially or in any other way. Kobi helped me with money as far as he could, but that was hardly enough for food, not to mention anything else, and in a bank of all places one must always be dressed to the nines. Now these worries are at last over.

What will come later, after the war, nobody knows, "after us the deluge". I hope that we'll see each other again, but who knows. I'll probably be back in Europe before long as a completely different person than when I left. Do you think I was right to join the military? I haven't had any news from Mummy for more than a year. I haven't written either for a long time, because it's pointless.



This is a photo of Mummy taken in 1939, after I left Germany.



This is the last photo of Mummy, taken on Lotte's birthday on the 25 September 1941

I can't tell you how delighted I was to receive your sweet birthday card, the only letter for my 18th birthday, I thank very warmly. Doris' letter was charming. Do you know, I am terribly proud of my little niece, she is such a cute thing. I would so much like to see her. I am already dreaming of it, the thought of a better future supports me and makes me happy. I wish I could already be sure. As soon as they post WAAFs from the Middle East I'll get myself posted either to Italy or the Far East, India or somewhere. Don't you think that's a good idea?

So far I am still in the same place. I like it here too and I have got used to everything. Also the climate in Egypt is almost unbearable at the moment. Here it's a lot better, and in addition I can travel to the seaside once a week for half a day's swimming.

This afternoon I am going to Tel-Aviv for a swim with a boy I know here, a Scotsman. I'll be travelling in an Arab bus and a white, or more or less white, girl without a veil etc can't do that on her own. Everything in it is also horribly dirty. As you probably know, most of the Arabs here, the lower classes, have eye diseases, syphilis etc, but we are vaccinated so often that I don't need to be afraid of that. Unfortunately other means of transport are sometimes

unreachable, or the time too short, and so one puts up with those. "By the way", the Jewish buses are not much fun either! - Still, I am glad I can at least go to the seaside. I will not see Kobi because I can't leave before 2 o'clock in the afternoon and must be back in the camp by the evening. Yesterday I had a big surprise. A girl came here to the office and said that her name was Hanne Lore Koppel and she was born in Koblenz. I asked her immediately if she knew me, then we started to talk about the "good old days" and we were very pleased. She was the daughter of the divorced Emil Koppel - and also a big girl by now.



Hanne Lore and I



Jock and I



Tag weniger bis dahin.

Inzwischen wird es auf wieder Winter, mein fünfter Winter hier. Meine Arbeit ist immer noch dieselbe überarbeite tue ich nicht, im Gegenteil manchmal wünschte ich ich hätte mehr zu tun. - Es tut mir leid, dass Du ob. Max die Stelle wegen meiner Bürgerschaft nicht wechseln willst, kannst Du sie eventuell später annehmen? 80 Dollars ist das eigentlich enorm viel Geld, ist das Leben eigentlich dort sehr teuer?? Schreib mir mal bitte darüber, es würde mich interessieren, na, ich hoffe ich sehe alle bald alleine sehr. Schreib mir bald wieder.

Vielleicht herzliche

Grüße und Küsse

Eure

Irene

Besondere Grüsse an
das Liebling von

"Nena" die es wohl schon
vergessen hat.

BASE CENSOR

44477 & TILL 200 000 11/41

BY AIR MAIL



IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

295

Write in German.

Mrs. Lotte Hein
Barry Avenue 856
Chicago, Ill.
U. S. A.

23/10/44

WHEN FOLDED THE AIR LETTER MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH
THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN



A.F.W. 3312

EXAMINED
BY

23 Oct 1944 (5 months after D Day, the invasion of Europe).

Here each day passes like the one before, everybody is waiting for the end of the war, so that they can go home, and every day that passes is one less to wait. Meanwhile it's turning winter again, my fifth winter here. My work is still the same. I'm not killing myself, on the contrary, sometimes I wish I had more to do.

I am particularly pleased that perhaps I'll soon be with you, indeed in my mind I already see myself there.

Suddenly it seems quite simple.

You write that you can get the guarantee for me, and I believe 99% that on that ground I can be released from the military. There are also enough ships to where you are. If you deal with everything there I'll apply for another passport and the discharge here. I'll also inquire about opportunities for travel, but I can't do anything before you write to me with precise details. When I last called at the consulate I was given only one form a propos quota and number. Please write to me as soon as possible. Naturally I won't let them post me away from here. I wish it was already "an hour after".

23 Jan 45

It will be interesting to see how much longer I am in this uniform. It seems not much longer although I am not too optimistic. I wonder what things will be like later. "Who knows?"

At the moment I am on "Night Duty". I'm worn out but can't go to bed till late and tomorrow morning I have to go to work early as usual. I hate that. I think I am like you, dear Lotte, I like to sleep in and I remember vividly how cross you were with me in Koblenz if I woke you early on Sunday morning. Today I know how you felt. What is new with you? The little darling will soon be 8 years old, how the time passes. At the moment it's the rainy season here, it doesn't just rain but it pours constantly.



2992375 AM SHOENEWALI

120 H.U. RAF ME

Meine Liebe!

3 July 45.

Eudlich nach 10 Monate erhielt
ich wieder eine Brief von Eud, und ich glaube
ich brauche Eud nicht erst zu sage wie enttäuscht
und traurig ich war als ich es.

Vor alle Dinge lh. Lotte habe ich
dich nie ge-Namen gehalten, ich wollte immer nach
America kommen dan ich jedoch Zweifel hatte bist.
Du selber Schuler, Lotte wenn du mir einmal
im Jahr schreibst das du mit mir rüber hole
wilst, wie kann ich da was machen. Vor alle
Dinge hast du kein Recht mir in solch eine Ton
zu schreiben. Vielleicht verstehst du nicht wie es ist
von Kind auf alleine zu sei, umgeben zu werden
von alle mögliche Verwandte und Freunde, Leute
wenn ich vollkommene was ich will ich will nach America
kommen, und dort mit irgendeiner ernehre, von
Eud möchte ich nur das ihr mir helft.

Ich habe vor 4 Woche eine Brief
an das Amerikanische Konsulat geschickt und an-
gefragt welche Möglichkeiten bestete, und was ich

selbst unternehme kann, habe jedoch noch keine
Antwort bekommen. Momente wo alles so un-
sicher ist, hat es ja kein Sinn um discharge
zu bitten aber wenn ich alles bestimmt weiss,
werde ich alles dafür tun.

Hier in der neue camp ist
alles so anders und noch so ungewohnt,
es herrscht im Gegensatz zu unsere letzte
fürchtbar viel Disziplin. Hast dir lh. Lotte zu
urteilen so wie du mir sagtest, ob ich dich
meine Briefe ja zu langweilen ich dachte
immer um in Kontakt mit Eud' zu bleiben,
werde ich wenigstens schreiben. Aproprio Lincoln:
Frauenklagen weiss ich leider genau so viel
darüber wie du, mit wundern überlaufft, das es
noch Mensch gebe die es überstehen haben.
Es interessierte mich zu hören das Max jetzt
bei Baldi Mayer arbeitet, ich selbst ertrinne mich
nicht mehr an d. Komplex wie die Juden dort
zusammen halten; dadurch das ich auslaernen mit
Engländer oder Amerikaner gewohnt habe das ich
auch immer mit ihm ausgegangen, ich glaube
kann Lotte, das Religion irgend eine Unter-

7 June 1945

It has been 6 months since your last letter to me and I am really very sad that you write so rarely. I was so excited about your parcel for my birthday and I waited every day for the promised letter, but have now given up waiting. You want me to come to you and I very much want to, but it's all pointless if you only write once or twice a year. My greatest wish at the moment would be to come to you, but that is not possible unless you help me. If it were only a matter of working to earn my bread, I can do that myself. Marriage, for the time being, is not to be thought of, first because he has to stay in the military and second because there aren't any houses in England and it will probably take a very long time till everything is normal again in Europe. Also, after all that I have seen, I am somewhat afraid to go to England. I only know one thing, that I will wait for the boy I am engaged to. I enclose a picture, I hope you'll like it; it's already a year old.

Here one hardly notices that the war in Europe is over. We work eight hours a day. And that's quite a lot in this terrible heat. Are you actually American nationals? I still have my German passport.

Sadly, I haven't heard anything about dear Mummy, have you found out anything from Paula?

July 1945

At last after 10 months I have had another letter from you and I don't think I need to tell you how disappointed and sad I was when I read it. First of all, dear Lotte, I have never fooled you, I always wanted to come to America, but if I had any doubts, Lotte, it was your fault. Lotte if all you do is write to me once a year that you want to get me over there, how can I do anything about it? Above all, you have no right to write to me in such a tone. Perhaps you don't understand what it's like to be alone from childhood and pushed around by all kinds of relatives and friends. Today I know perfectly well what I want, I want to come to America and work there for my living; as for you, I would only like you to help me. Here in the new camp everything is very different and very unfamiliar; unlike the last camp, discipline rules. To judge by you, dear Lotte, as you told me, my letters seem to bore you. I always thought at least I would write in order to keep in touch with you. About concentration camps unfortunately I know exactly as much as you do, and am surprised that anybody at all survived them. Funny how Jews stick together in spite of everything; as I have constantly lived in the same quarters with English or American people I have always gone out with them.

Lotte, I don't believe that religion makes any difference. Besides, I no longer believe in anything anyway, but I'll never forget that I am Jewish and other people will probably always remind me of it. How is the little darling? I am again on night duty and knackered. We work 8 ½ hours in the heat and from time to time extra duties; still, I prefer all that to being dependent on Kobi in Tel-Aviv. Please write soon too, please with a little less anger, dear Lotte!



Jock Dec 1944



With Kobi

2992375 Am Schwenewald 3.
120 M.U. RAF. ME.

Meine Lieben; Vs. day, 16.8.45.

Seit Wochen habe ich nichts von Euch gehört, und habe mich schon so ziemlich daran gewöhnt, ich hoffe, dass Ihr meine Briefe alle erhalten habt.

Also gestern ist Vs. day bekannt gegeben worden, und jetzt habe wir 4 Tage frei. Hier im Camp ist alles ziemlich ruhig, ich stelle mir vor, das das bei Euch nicht gerade der Fall ist; ich wünschte ich wäre bei Euch, oder wünschte wenigstens, dass ich bald zu Euch kommen könnte, besonders momentan wo alles vorbei ist, und ich bald aus dem Militär rauskommen werde. Ich mache mir ziemlich viel Sorge was sein wird, wenn wir entlassen werden, ich würde

wenn es sein muss versuche im Camp eine Stelle als Wirtin zu bekommen. Bitte schreibt mir dort welche Möglichkeiten bestehen zu Euch zu kommen, und was ich unternehmen kann.

Nächste Woche habe ich für 10 Tage Urlaub nach Beirut, mit noch einer Freundin in ein Service Hotel. es kostet uns sehr wenig, und vor allen Dingen freue ich mich mal ausruhen und lang schlafen zu können, ich glaube Lotta, schlafen ist eine Eigenschaft die wir beide geerbt haben. Lore sagt mir immer ich sei genau wie Du.

Wie geht es Dir lb. Max?
und was macht Doris? Bald wird überall das Leben wieder normal weitergehen, ich kann mir es kaum mehr vorstellen.
Ich wünschte die lb. Mutti wäre noch am

VJ day 16. August 19 45

My Dears,

I haven't heard from you for weeks and have got more or less used to it; I hope that you have received all my letters. Yesterday VJ day was announced and now we have 4 days' leave, here in the camp everything is fairly quiet. I imagine that the same is not exactly the case with you.

I wish I were with you or at least knew that I can come to you soon, particularly now that everything is over and I'll be soon released from the military.

I am rather worried about what will happen when we are released. If necessary I'll try to get a job in the camp as a civilian. Please write to me what possibilities of coming to there are and what I can do. Next week I am going to Beirut for 10 days' leave with a girl friend to a Service Hotel, which costs us very little. I look forward most to being able to rest and sleep in. Lotte, I think sleeping is a quality we both inherited. Lore is always telling me I am exactly like you.

I wish dear Mummy were alive and well and we could all be together again.

24 Aug 1945

Now that the war is over everywhere, it will not be long before I am discharged. I'll try to keep my job as a civilian for as long as the Unit continues to exist and rent a room somewhere. Lotte, what are the possibilities of coming to you at the moment? As I wrote to you, the American consul has told me that he can't do anything till my papers arrive from you. I so wish for everything to work.

Yesterday I saw a film about the concentration camps in Germany and when I see it all like that I realise time and again that the bastards have never got what they deserve, on the contrary, most people here think that the Germans are nice and all that they have done seems to be forgotten. The only ones who will never forget are the Jews. I think nobody else has suffered so under the Nazis. I wish I could find out something about Mummy or someone else from Koblenz, but so far I haven't heard about anyone who arrived from Germany.

You know, I must constantly think of how lucky we were to get out, particularly me so close to the outbreak of war.



2992375 ~~1144~~ Schoenewald J.
120 MU. RAF. ME.

6.10.45.

Meine Sieben;

Schon wieder ist eine lange Zeit vergangen und ich habe nichts von Euch gehört, so breche ich mal wieder das Schweigen. Bei mir ist noch alles beim Alten, obwohl hier im Land wie Ihr ja wahrscheinlich gehört habt, grosse Spannung herrscht. Ich hoffe, dass es ruhig bleibt und noch alles in Ordnung sein wird. Ich bin überhaupt ausser mir, dass man noch nötig hat ein Gericht zu halten über all die Konzentrationslager, als ob die Tausende von Tote nicht genügend Beweis wäre, aber was liegt anderem an den Juden, noch Leute kommen Hunderte um. Wie ich Euch schon schrieb sind wir hier 65 Engländer und 2 Jüdinnen und der Bischof ist grösser wie ich ihn jemals in Deutschland empfunden habe. Den ganzen Tag höre ich nichts anderes als wie

punktbear die Juden sind, und wie eklig faksture ist, dabei sind die ganze Städte Schicks, die schmutzige Halbe, nur um ein Mann zu schnappe. Ich kann verstehen dass Menschen Bischof Halbe aber ich kann es nicht verstehen wenn die Städte in diesem Land auf uns schimpfen, dazu hätte sie in England bleiben sollen. Ich bin sehr froh, dass ich nicht nach England gegangen bin, ich wäre dort nur unglücklich gewesen, denn ein Mann genügt nicht, wenn eine jeder andere schief aussieht. Von hier gehen jetzt ziemlich viele Leute nach America, ich wünsche ich könnte auch schon fahren. Haltet Ihr nochmal etwas wegen der Papiere übernommen??

Morgen fahre ich für 3 Wochen auf einen course in housekeeping etc. Ich hatte mich vor 2 Monate dafür gemeldet, und jetzt ist es durchgekommen. Es kann mir nicht schade und ist auf jeden Fall eine Abwechslung. Der ganze service ist eine Züchtung, ich möchte schon raus sein, zu Euch kommen und etwas anzufangen wo ich weiss, dass es Sinn hat.

9 Sept 1945

Today is Rosh Hashana. - Yesterday I went to see Kobi, his little one will be 2 years old tomorrow, he is very very sweet. As I wrote to you, I was on leave and it was quite nice. Above all, I was out of the heat, because up in the mountains in Syria it's very cool.

I'm not surprised by what you write to me about anti-Semitism, even though I thought that it didn't exist in America. Last week I saw in a newspaper, pictures of Koblenz, bombed to pieces. They included the Jewish cemetery, Lohr Street etc. What you write about Ruthchen and Kurt, sadly, is probably true; I don't believe that they are still alive. I wish I could find out something about dear Mummy, anything, even though I know very well that she is no longer alive. Do you know, when I left Koblenz I already knew that I would never see her again and through all the years I knew it even more, it's too terrible to think of. Although I was very young I can remember everything, the 10th of November, the days when you packed everything, the people in the block and the many friends of dear Mummy. A propos Denmark, I'll write to them this week, but don't expect much from it.

I have submitted everything for a passport and only need to inquire about a place on a ship. I'll get the discharge from the Army without any problems. I wish I were already leaving. I can't tell you how I look forward to coming to you, for 6 years I haven't had anywhere that I knew I could go and unburden myself. You know how Lore feels about us and Kobi can't do anything about it.

6 Oct 1945

With me everything is still as it has been, although here in the country the mood is very tense, as you have probably heard. I hope things remain calm and all will be well.

I am beside myself that it's considered necessary to hold trials about all the Concentration Camps, as if the thousands of dead were not sufficient proof, but who else cares about the Jews, even today hundreds are dying.

As I wrote to you, we are here 65 English and 2 Jewish women and the anti-Semitism is greater than I ever experienced it in Germany. All day I hear nothing but how awful the Jews are and how nasty Palestine is; and yet all the girls are Schickses who volunteered in order to catch a man. I can understand people being anti-Semites, but I can't bear the girls moaning about us in this country. They should have stayed in England. I am very glad I didn't go to England. I would have been unhappy there, because one man is not enough if all the others look at one askance. From here many people are going to America. I wish I could also go already. Have you done anything again about the papers?

Tomorrow I am going on a three week course in housekeeping. It can't do any harm and in any case it's a change. The whole service is a waste of time. I would like to be out of it, come to you and to start something that I know has a point.

Her engagement to Jock had come to an end and in the first half of 1946 she married a British serviceman, Edward Leslie Kane. On the 2nd of November, with a British passport, she left Palestine and sailed to England where they lived in the tiny village of Ravensthorpe in Northamptonshire. Only 13 months later, in January 1948, she obtained a visa to go to America and she set sail on the 17th aboard the Cunard Liner the "Queen Elizabeth" arriving in New York on the 23 January. She then went to Chicago to live with Lotte and Max where she stayed until November 1948. She then returned to England and went to London and lived in a flat in Compayne Gardens, West Hampstead where she met Hans Futter, who had been introduced to her by his ex girlfriend Ruth Veit in 1949. As late as April 1951 she was still planning to go to the United States but in October she became engaged to Hans, marrying him in December.



Chicago 1948



Bertha's story

I was born at 11.00 in the evening of Wednesday the 23rd of April 1884 in Krefeld near Dusseldorf and about 30 km from the Dutch border.

My father Leopold Goldstein was born in Horstgen in 1847 and my mother Bernhardine Devries was born in 1850 in Kleve.

I had four siblings, Abraham, Sara, Max and Hermann. Hermann only lived for 3 months. We all lived in the Rhineland and were all murdered in 1942.

I married Hirsch Hermann Schonewald on November 25th 1907 and my son Jacob (Kobi) was born in September 1908 followed soon by my daughter Charlotte (Lotte) in September 1910.

We moved around a bit before settling in Koblenz just before the First World War. Kobi had just started school in April 1914 and war was declared in August.



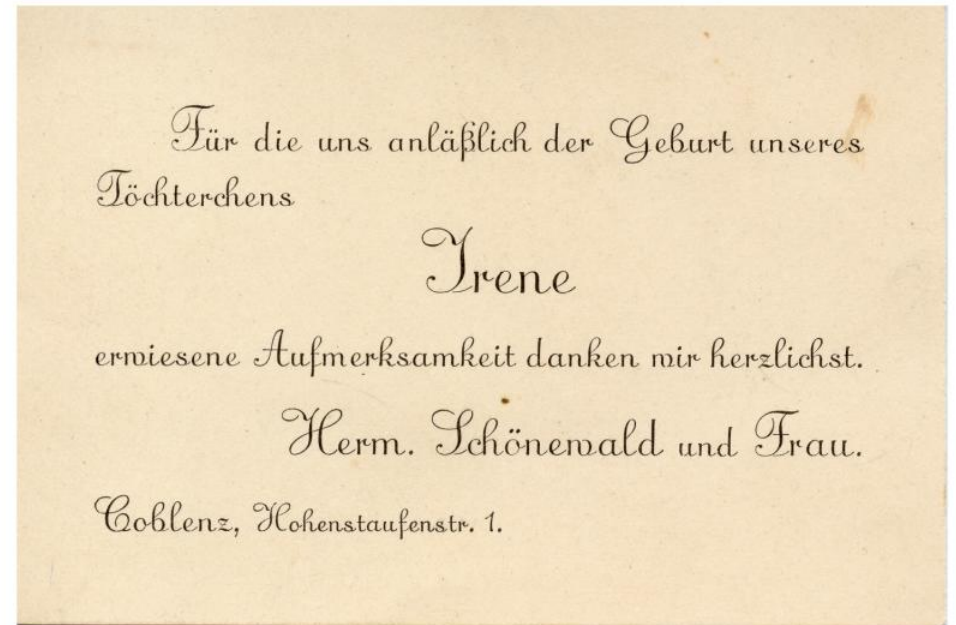
Kobi 1910



Kobi's first day in school 22 May 1914

Hermann joined the army again and served on the Russian Front as a medic. He was one of the more than 100,000 German Jews who fought in the Imperial Army.

In 1926, at the age of 42, to my great surprise, I found myself pregnant again and on May 21 my beautiful daughter Irene was born.



Für die uns anlässlich der Geburt unseres
Töchterchens

Irene

ermiesene Aufmerksamkeit danken mir herzlichst.

Herm. Schönwald und Frau.

Koblenz, Hohenstaufenstr. 1.



Lichtbild des Inhabers

Eigenhändige Unterschrift des Inhabers:

Jakob Schriewald
(mit vollem Vor- und Zunamen)

Bonn, den *27. 4.* 19*27*



Der Rektor
der Rheinischen
Friedrich Wilhelms-Universität

Meinhof



At the same time Kobi did so well in his studies that he was able to study Law at Bonn University. He was the first in our family ever to go to university. My great joy was tempered with crushing sorrow when my Hermann died aged only 49 on the very same day.

Kobi was not just clever but athletic as well. He loved running and had hoped to represent Germany in the 1932 Olympics. He did well at University and proudly had his wonderful portrait taken in his full student uniform.



Hermann



After Hermann's death life became difficult. As a single mother with very limited resources bringing up a baby was hard. I was lucky that Lotte helped me and that I had many friends and relatives. Here Lotte is holding baby Irene

I took in sewing and mending and had a little haberdashery business that I ran from a room in my flat. This is a tea party in my flat with my friends in about 1930. I am standing in the back on the right and Irene is sitting in the front.



Lotte and Kobi were close. Here they are going for a swim in the Rhine near Koblenz.



Ida Hermann

Honi Honi

Emma Rosenthal

Bertha Mrs Rosenthal

Lotte

Selma

Hugo Rosenthal

Irene

Philip

Brunhilde

Julius Rosenthal

?



On Irene's 4th birthday we all went out together



In December 1933 we went to Holland to visit Kobi who had emigrated a few months earlier.



A cafe trip on the Rhine in May 1935. Irene is a not very happy 9 year old.

We would also travel to relatives in Madfeld, Krefeld, Duisberg and in this photo taken in 1931 we went to our relatives in Hadamar. I am standing on the steps on the right and Lotte is standing on the far left with Irene is in her white dress in front of her.



Abfender:

B. Chmiewald
Koblenz

Wohnort, auch Zustell- oder Leitpostamt

Postfach 123
Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel od. Postschliessfachnummer

Ich bin sehr dankbar für Ihre
Antwort, die ich gestern
erhalten habe. Ich werde
auf Ihre Briefe bald
antworten. Ich würde
gern + gerne einen
Besuch machen! Ich
hoffe, das bald möglich
zu sein. Ich würde
gern + gerne einen
Besuch machen!
Mit
Heiter

Postkarte mit Antwortkarte
Carte postale avec réponse payée



England

Familie
Max Heins

Sandwich-Island

Lobersum Avenue

Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel oder Postschliessfachnummer

4.

Koblenz, 8 August 1939

To Lotte and Max who had just arrived in Sandwich, England.

We have received your long letter and were very pleased that you arrived so well and everything worked perfectly. I have been trying to write for 3 days, but I haven't been able to get round to it because of all the people who come here about emigration, all of whom are helping with Irene's departure and her equipment. Here there is such singsong and shouting from the radio all day that one can't hear oneself think. To come back once more to your journey, you dear Lotte have been lucky with that as you are in all situations in life. I hope fate will allow me to see you all again, my dears. My emigration will take a while as it may not be my turn before the spring. For the last few days I have been sewing for Irene and have already made her two skirts from the two grey remnants and also a charming blouse, from paper patterns. The ladies have brought me suitcases full of dresses, blouses and underwear, all almost new, for Irene. The bedding is pure linen, sheets and pillows as new and a bath towel 2 metres by 1.6 metres, pure linen. On Saturday afternoon I bought new what was still missing, such as polo blouses, shoes and boots above all the available china and cutlery. Irene has after all accepted that she is to be separated from me for a while and is pleased and actually quite enthusiastic to go. Since she received the certificate she has said goodbye to nail chewing. Now back to you dear Lotte. Have you seen the doctor and what does he say? Will the treatment continue the same way? Above all you must rest a lot and eat well. The people in Krefeld have no chance of a security at the moment because Edgar does not know anyone who can deposit 6000 Dollars.

Keep well and write again soon and don't forget your loving mother

3 Sep 1939

My dears, when I had posted my letter to you this morning a telegram came from Berlin saying that Irene had to leave for Berlin today. It was followed by 2 phone calls and then shortly before her departure another telegram. Now I have just taken Irene, who was too excited to eat anything all day, to the 22:17 train to Cologne. As I can't get back before 5:30 tomorrow morning I have taken a room at the station because I can't sit at the station all night. Irene found the farewell hard and the day had been full of stress. I hope you are well. I'll feel desolate when I get home tomorrow morning. My love and kisses, Mother.

Koblenz, 7 Sept 1939

My dear Irene,

At that time I hadn't thought of you having to leave as soon as the next day. I have waited for your letter impatiently and am very glad that you, dear, have been so lucky and the people are so kind to you. I know you like that - a daughter's room to yourself, car rides, dolling yourself up. The most important thing is that you also get good food and you must eat well. Weigh yourself and then I will see if you are putting on weight. You must also be good to the Andersen family and help the lady wherever you can. You now have a beautiful journey behind you and are able to tell a lot; but you haven't written how you did it in Berlin and whether you were able to leave Berlin in time. How did the journey from Cologne go? Did you sleep on the train? Everything still seems to me like a fairy tale. So far I haven't been alone, all our acquaintances have been asking about you daily and when your letter arrived Ruth, her mother, Mrs. Salomon, happened to be here and the kitchen was too small. Naturally I had to read out your letter and all were pleased that you are having it so good there and that you want to take care of me. Naturally I would go there immediately if you, dear, could manage that.

12 Sept 1939 I am very glad, dear Irene, that you are so well and that you can be very grateful for everything to your lady. You are kept like a Countess and very much envied by all here. Everyone is as pleased as I am that you are so lucky. It is wonderful of your foster parents to have bought you a bicycle, but be very cautious so that nothing happens, and go carefully, otherwise I'll worry again. So you are allowed to invite a friend, which is very kind of Mrs Andreason and makes me realise that she honestly means well towards you. Be good to her too. I am eating a pear and thinking of you because you get such a lot of fruit there. Just don't drink any water with it and be careful. When its cold, put on warm underwear so that you don't catch a cold. With love and kisses to you from your Mummy.

13 Sept 1939 I am glad that you have it so good there and that you can eat what you like and above all that you are so content. You see, dear, this is a reward for your piety; I am also glad that you want to fast on Yom Kippur to make me well. You know that I am against fasting, particularly because with your weak constitution you can't tolerate it, but blessed are those who believe. Nervous as I was, I don't know whether I wished you a happy Rosh Hashanah in one of my last letters. Your new life, together with the year 5700, is beginning with all your wishes being fulfilled, and so your wish to see me soon with you will also be answered by the good Lord. Ruth was here early in the morning and will add a few words for you, she always looks forward to your news. Everyone is pleased that you have it so good. It's God's gift that the wind blew you to these good people. Even though Kalundborg is a small place, as you write, you have enough variety and you are respected and made welcome. As far as my and father's picture is concerned I will send it in my next letter. Dear Mrs Andreason, My heartfelt thanks for the extremely great kindness and friendliness you have shown my Irene and I hope that Irene is giving you a great deal of pleasure and help with your daily work. With many warm wishes, yours,
Mrs B.G. Schonewald.

18 Sept 1939 My dear Stungerich, Today you have given me great pleasure with your big letter and I thank you warmly for always writing to me so nicely and in so much detail. You know that I read out your letters as often as Kobi's in the circle of my friends and all are amazed that you can write so stylishly, dear Irene. I see now that you were all looked after so well at Rosh Hashanah and you are really enviable. So far you haven't written anything about Mr Andreason. Is he also nice and kind to you? My certificate should also work out all right, and once it's here the visa will also come. Perhaps we'll be lucky and everything turns out differently and well for us. Have you learnt any Ivrit yet? I hope you will soon hear from Kobi and Lotte and Illa, you wrote your address clearly, didn't you? Here at home there is heavy smoke in the kitchen! Ruth is now supposed to go to school in Cologne and they want to move there, so that she and her mother are out of the tsores. I wonder if it will work; but you needn't mention this in your letters. I am glad, that you have acclimatised so well. Even if it's hard at first it will be better for your future if we both overcome this unwanted separation. I am also alone and at night in bed sometimes think of the lovely readings in the evenings and the brushing and combing. Well, now I'll go to bed, I am tired. Love and kisses from your loving Mummy.

22 Sept 1939 Dear "naughty girl". Assuming that you had a good fast, I hope that you are well and that the purpose of fasting will bear good fruit. Perhaps we shall see each other soon as a result. On the festival everybody was in shul and the whole house was empty till midday. Dear Stungelein, you can call yourself lucky to have it so good there and you have no reason to wish that you were back here. My health is now better, thank God, and I am glad that I am no longer in discomfort. I don't eat any fatty food any more, which is better for me. I again went to see those people from Metternich who brought me the fruit and vegetables that time and collected a suitcase full of peaches and a big basket full of apples. The people were so kind to me and they expect me to come again next week. I am sorry that you aren't here. We could both have attacked the fruit. I am happy to know that tomorrow you will be together with the children for prayers led by your teacher and not eat any sachertorte. What matters most is that you eat well and build up your strength. Make sure that you don't catch cold and don't become ill and put on warm clothes.

Bei Herrnschlegler war ich. Koblenz, den 29. Sept. 39.
wird man wohl sagen, man wird der herzlich da der
wirdt kein Luffat.

Mein lieber Kinkelinger! Gruß = Frau Oculat
Mit großer Freude nehme ich gefahren, nachdem ich
größerer Freude mich zu dir eingewandert habe,
denn dein Max's liebe Zeilen. Er weiß ich mir
wenigstens, daß er ihnen allen gut geht, mir
Lotte läßt sich mal wieder zu Abschiedung
von einem neuen Hofen; hoffentlich ist er nicht
pflanzend. Max schreibt gar nicht von dem
übrigen Hofen der Lotte & brüderlich, mich
daß ein wenig. Das große Kaufmann ist
jetzt schon ein kleinerer kleinerer Hofen
ein besonderer Subjekt sind, sich beliebt zu
machen, wenn diese mal rückgängig ist,
dann wird ihm die Klutz zu klain & die
Kaufmann sind ihm nicht mehr gewachsen.
So ein Kitzelinger, habe daß ich nicht zu
ihm kam; ich hätte ab schon zu Kopf ge-
bracht. Hoffentlich ist es bald möglich, dann
werden die h. Kumpel & ich mal eingefahren
Gute ist der 2. Sonntag & haben wir vor,
über die Rasthaus nach der Laubach & zu-
rück zu gehen. Gestern warst du Oculat Robert
& ich eine Tour über Storchheimerbrücke, Pfaffen,
am Rhein entlang zurück & trafen in Storchheim
Wiesa, die die h. Kumpel eintraten & mich
läßt, sie schreibt dir bald. Rüst dich einem Brief
schon anzufangen, er kommt aber immer
langsam bei ihm. Auf was ich in diesem Namen
bei Rüst & habe gratuliert, sie freute sich sehr

29 Sep 1939 My dear Stinkelinchen, in your dear letter you write again that you want to come back. Dear child, be reasonable, be glad that you were able to start your journey so quickly. I can and must tell you time and again: you'll never again have it as good as you have it now, except if you move on to Eretz, where dear Lore and Kobi would make sure that you don't go short of anything, and if I can then join you. You have such a lot of company, and I am glad about your lovely presents from the lady of the committee, it's really kind, thank the lady also in my name and give her my kind regards and also to the Andreasen family. Love and kisses from your fond Mummy.

5 October 1939 My dear Stungelinenmannchen, You will have to get used to Zionism and above all show an interest as if you wanted to; you know; you get advantages from the association and you must ultimately do in Rome as the Romans do. It is now Simchat Torah and I enclose a picture of your late father, it's the only one I have. Kockecke has sent you a lovely postcard, dear Stunges, and if I tell you something you won't believe it. Here it is. She went to the Ehrenbreitstein cemetery after 6 p.m., mooched around, and when she decided to leave all the gates were locked. All moaning to passers-by was pointless, nobody could open. Meanwhile darkness had fallen and no help appeared. A man who came that way and to whom she called out in her misery advised her to stand on a large pile of withered wreaths that were heaped up along the wall, so that she could climb over. She did so at once, but because the leaves were dry and couldn't bear the great weight she disappeared into the ground, where there was a deep hole; Kockeke vanished from the face of the earth. Finally an attendant, who was passing, took pity on her and, bringing a ladder, rescued her from her plight. To the accompaniment of a great deal of cheering she climbed up the ladder, stopped on top of the wall standing high like a Germania, then moved the ladder to the street side and thus reached terra firma. This was a beautiful and true report. Picture the living scene. - Dear Irene, you knew Anshel, who also wanted to go to Eretz, he has committed suicide... it's terrible. With every post I hope to hear something from Kobi, which will probably happen soon. I thank you warmly for your efforts concerning my emigration and hope that your hard work will bear fruit; I really wish it were already 1 hour after. Well, dear Kindelinmannchen, stay good and healthy. With warm hugs and kisses from your loving Mummy.

9 October 39 My dear Stitzelein, I hope we have peace soon, so that you, dear Stunges, can continue your journey to Eretz. If you were to pass this way I would travel a fair distance with you because one can't talk a lot; I wish it was already happening. Put on warm clothes, so that you don't catch cold and become ill, perhaps buy another pair of woollen trousers. - Uncle Robert hasn't got anywhere yet with his emigration and the move, all that is not so simple.

10 October 39 My dear Stunges, a phone call came from you, but I had gone for a walk and when I went to the phone at 7 o'clock you had already cancelled the call. What did you want? I was worried that you might be ill. If you book a call you must speak to me and not cancel it. Your letter, in which you write that you will all get together for Hanukkah, gave me great pleasure. That will be a beautiful celebration and I guess you are also looking forward to it. In my mind's eye I can see you knitting hard and soon having finished the trousers and shirt. I am going to wait a few more days before I submit my application to the Danish Consulate, perhaps it will not be necessary if we have peace. How are your periods? Are you punctual? Or do you have any complications? If you do, drink peppermint tea. Now keep well. With love and kisses from your Mummy

Opüße bitten Francis Andreason.

Alle Labanten u. das junge Grub, Coters etc. lass grüßen
Koblenz, den 19. Okt. 39.

Mein lieber Lulu!

Ofters mit meiner Karte hab ich dir bewillt deine
Briefe beständig u. frische Briefe ich wieder dir
schönen Brief vom 15. Ich weiß du mir Briefe
Briefe anzeigt. Du bist ich habe viel zu schreiben,
bitte jeden Abend u. freitags, bald dir, Lotte, Theres
etc. So falls ich auf einem Brief von Hedwig Lange
aus Holland was ich Lotte aufschreibe. In dem
Briefe schreibe ich dir nicht ein, da es schon längst
durch die letzten Briefe überfaktisch und habe
dieser auf geachtet. Lotte u. Theres wissen
es ja gut mit, und u. mit mir, aber es ist
zu spät, sie hätten früher kommen sollen. -
Aber nicht desto weniger l. Kumpel, wenn ich
es bei mir mein Labanten so besetzt will
ich gerne zubringen. In der Hof Raina
Güter, im Jagdgebiet, ich kann das nicht alle
offen was ich bekommen, mir mein gut Köpfe
nicht ich nicht sehr bewilligen. - Mit dem
großen Brief von Lotte, hat ich mich riesig
gefreut besonders über unser l. Kumpel,
aber es hat es ja sehr gut. Ihr alle habt
ja Glück wünschen u. wisst, du l. Kumpel
sehr bewilligen so auf Lotte. - In einem
letzten Briefe hast du mir Ansehen so schnell
gezeigt, daß du auf einmal so schnell dort
mag willst. bist du so glücklich geworden ge-
worden? oder warum? es ist ja ein gutes
Zeichen, daß Gott lude. Ich gerne dort besetzen

13 October 1939 To Lotte I often have such a longing for the little person and I so often wish the happy hours with the child were back, or to put it better a long way ahead of us. My dears, when we see each other again, I hope that everything will stay calm with you as with us. I have meanwhile had to live through many unpleasant things and am glad that Irene has been spared them. I am now living in my two back rooms that I have made very homely. To make things simple I have had water installed and now I can cope with my work even though I have to mend and sew a lot that has recently been left undone. Irene's emigration had just worked out on 2 September and she has been very lucky with the people. She writes to me very often and is homesick; in that foreign country everything is so foreign to her and she doesn't understand the language either. But the lady is very kind to her and the committee also does a lot. Irene just has to accept a fate that unfortunately concerns us all. Since Irene left I get only 33.60 RM a Month (about £300 in 2018 values) and must see how I can manage with that and part of it still has to be taken off for the rent. Regular benefits have completely ceased. Mrs G writes to me that Carola left for the USA on 3 September, they were lucky. Write to Kobi and Irene so they hear from each other and make an effort for me as soon as possible. Your Mother and Granny.

14 Oct 1939 I was very pleased that you are now in the Maccabi, that is nice. Thanks to your friends you are having a lot of fun, and what is even nicer is that you can play the piano. Learn what there is to learn, it does no harm.

18 Oct 1939 Your letter of today has displeased me because you write that you would like to leave today rather than tomorrow. Aren't you happy there anymore? Until now your letters have always sounded so contented and suddenly you want to leave. If so my application to come to Denmark is pointless. I must look for another opportunity to get out. (She now writes about illegal emigration to Palestine) I will not take the way you suggest, dear Stunges, that is far too uncertain for me and Kobi has always warned us about it in his letters.

19 Oct 1939 Lotte and Max mean well towards us and towards me, but it's too late, they should have cared sooner. Nevertheless, dear Stungerich, I'll be satisfied if I can keep things as they are till the end of my life. In your last letter you changed your views so quickly that all of a sudden you want to leave. Have you suddenly become a Zionist? If you should suddenly leave let me know by telegram which town you will be travelling through that is not too far from here. Then I'll go there and travel a distance with you, but you must let me know the train exactly and the town where the train stops.

26. Oct 1939 Here it is noticeably cold now and one has to put on warmer clothes. I hope you don't neglect yourself and wear really warm things. If you haven't got enough you must ask the Committee to help you. Do you still go for drives in the car? Sadly, by tomorrow you will have been away 8 weeks.

1 Nov 1939 My dear little child, everything isn't quite as bad as you, dear Stunges, imagine and interpret it; don't let what can't be altered upset you. What matters most is that the ghastly fantasies I had of you, dear little child, being ill have been proved wrong by your dear big letter and I heaved a great sigh of relief when I saw from it that you are well. - You must be patient a little longer, what will come will come, and let us hope that it won't be too long till I am with you again. Uncle Max in Duisburg has again sent me 10 Reich Marks (about £100), isn't that decent of him? Now I can enclose another banknote for you as you have no money left.

2 Nov 1939 My dear Stunges, Now I must complain because I have not had any post from you for 6 days. How did you spend the Festivals? Ruth is leaving for Cologne today, she has just come to say goodbye. Now her life of leisure is over. I hope you will hear something from Cologne soon. Love and many kisses from your loving Mummy.

8 Nov 1939 I am glad you got such nice coats and dress, you must look very good in them. Keep your things in good order and hang them on coat hangers so that they don't suffer.

Koblenz, den 5. 12. 39.

P. C. Sch.

Mein L. Carlchen!

Jetzt bringe ich mal die Briefbogen
von G. Holz, woson noch 2. ganze
Kasson da sind. Na, gestern hat
sich die Post ja gut mit mir ge-
mauert, so kamme dein 8. Brief
langer Brief, 1 Karte von dir, sowie
Karte von Hadamar & Else & Carl.

Es fällt mir zu lesen, & man weiß
freut sich nicht mit einem L. Zeilen.
Du hast dir ja soviel Mühe gegeben,
aber es war mal wieder mal
persönlich von L. Lörke & Köbi
zu hören, & schreiben beide ja
so schön & herzlich, daß du dich auf
dein zukünftigen Namen.

Gefentlich geht es mir bald mal

10 Nov 1939 Krefeld My dear child, I have come here today and am going to rest for a few days and discuss your emigration with Uncle Robert. A plan to go to Uncle Max in Duisburg has meanwhile collapsed because he and Aunt Fanny have gone away for an indefinite period. I am glad that Kobi has at last written to you. Now that you have such beautiful frocks and coats you must surely feel good in them. One piece of news I will tell you is that Friedel is going to Bolivia to the teacher A. and will marry him there. She already has her papers. I will let my room to the uncle of Miss Irma O. when I get the permit; then I'll be tied down again and that is why I have gone now. Love and kisses

18 Nov 39 Krefeld I am genuinely sorry that Mr Andreasen is so ill and I hope that his pains will soon subside; most of all I wish him a speedy recovery. This shows you, dear Stunges, how watchful one has to be when riding a bike, so take care. - I am staying here till Monday morning, and then I'll go home. Have you got a bathroom there? Always keep clean and don't neglect yourself, will you? I would have your hair cut short again; ask Mrs Andreasen what she would regard as right; I think if your hair is short it would be less work and easier to wash. Your maid must be a decent person to be so thoughtful towards you; you too must help her when you can. I am really glad that you get such good marks for your work in Hebrew, which will be a great asset to you when you are in Eretz. Lore and Kobi should use you as a rolling pin. As you see, I am really well and I had a really good first half of November, which was a nice change for me. Love and kisses from your loving Mummy.

Koblenz, 22. Nov 1939 My Dear, When I got back from Krefeld I found another big letter from you which, gave me very great pleasure. I laughed tears, but not just me, but also all my acquaintances here in the house and the salon. I am glad that you are in such a good mood, and that you have it so good with the Andreasen family. How nice it is of Mrs. Andr. to be taking you with them at Christmas, you will certainly get nice presents, you can look forward to that, they are doing all they can to make things nice for you and you must appreciate that. So you may have a chance to get to Eretz, that would be nice, that might be a great journey with detours. I am all alone in the room and can write in peace. In Krefeld I wasn't able to concentrate because everybody was in the room. My reception in Koblenz was really charming. Today I baked an apple tart for myself, only for myself, with bruised apples that had gone off while I was away. I eat more fruit now in order to lose weight and be able to move better. My room is not yet let.

5 December 1939 Tomorrow evening is Hanukkah. We will light the menorah at the Osters and I am supposed to join in the singing as loud as I can. It's a pity you aren't here. I wonder if the Hanukkah man will bring me something? I am looking forward to your pictures and I hope you have put on some weight. Can't you weigh yourself? Let somebody throw you on the post scales! Your Hanukkah man is arriving in the leather suitcase. I have sold your camel hair coat from Ruth for 15 RM today. You wrote to me that you were all going away and meeting for Hanukkah, now I am curious what presents you will then all be getting. It's nice that you, Ilse and Ursel are so close. Are they older than you? Please give them my warm regards. I hope to meet them over there soon. I am now exercised by the idea of following soon; I hope I'll succeed. Meanwhile you will probably have heard from Lotte and Max that they are leaving England. My room is still vacant, it has not yet been let. A loss for me too; there are probably interested parties. With many kisses from your loving MUM

December 1939 In any case I will carry the matter forward because then I will quite certainly come with the transport. But now comes the crux of the affair. For the journey and expenses 200 dollars or the same amount in other currencies must be paid from abroad, if possible not from Eretz. What kind-hearted compassionate foreigner would make this sacrifice for me? If the worst came to the worst it could be done by dear Kobi. I have also been at the benevolent society to talk about it, I am not sure what to do now, but there is still a lot of time and I suppose a good soul will turn up. So far I am all right, thk Gd, but I would like to carry out my plan soon for many different reasons. Mrs Andreasen was very kind to advance you the money so you would have the pleasure of sending me something for Hanukkah. Tomorrow I will also send the Andreasen family a parcel for Christmas and hope they will be pleased with it. Give my regards to the Andreasen family and be kissed 100000 times by your loving Mummy

Der Brief geht erst morgen (Samstag) fort,

Hoblenz, den 15. Dez. 1939.

Meine l. Köpffrau! Deine l. Brief u. Karte vom
7. d. M., worin du mir eine schöne Chan. Lieder geschildert,
falsch ist dir ja schon mit meiner gestrigen l. befehlige
Nun fruchte ich mich, daß du so viel l. u. mich
sfolige Freundin sein, die dir so l. u. mich
die l. Kätzchen schon wollte für
Foto eingepflichtet u. fofte, da
frucht. Ich sollte für die
Chan. Gipsant sein, was ich
Pflicht zu spät, außerdem
Alle Bekannten sagen,
Gib auf bitte an Lotti
aber ich will nicht
damit, es nicht leiden
sollt. Kein Bild für
nicht pflichten. Ich
für den Brief so
ist unklar, die l. u.
es nicht. Du brauchst ja
Briefe von Lotti u. Kobi
ist ja so viel Arbeit, mir das
wissen, was unser Lieblinge so
muß ich gar nicht wissen. Du
im Ganzen zu denken, oder die
Ob Kobi in Teufel was vertrieben, ist das frag
Ich glaube nicht daran. Sie sieht gar so
gesehen nicht, was ein kleines Kästchen
mir zu sagen u. ist mir jetzt die
zukommen, daß alles Genuß ist. Ich kann mir

Geöffnet

H. Schönewald,
Hoblenz
Koblenzstr. 27.



Geöffnet

15 Dec 1939 My dear little beetle, as I wanted to see you dear kitten, I sent you my photo and I hope it will give you pleasure. How do you like me? All my acquaintances say it is true to life. What Kobi is achieving in Geneva is questionable. I don't believe in it. In the last 3 years he hasn't sent one small parcel to give me pleasure, and now it has dawned on me that it's all waffle. I can only live on facts, not on promises. Other people's children who have been away so long make the sun shine out of them. You, dear I respect and I am glad that you try to give me nothing but pleasure. Your parcel is the fact, but it has not arrived so far and I expect it daily as it contains treats. You ask if you should give the watch to Kobi. Not for the time being, because it is meant to be a souvenir of Mr Wolff and I want to keep it for myself. Perhaps one day it will be yours. After all, nobody gives me anything, neither Kobi nor Lotte. Although I was poor I saved the last thing I had for the two of them. If one wants to, one can spare a trifle for one's mother instead of leaving her behind helpless in another world. Nevertheless I thank God that he has protected me so far and rewarded me for the good that I had done to you children and my fellow humans. I am content and have what I need to live on, and my greatest pleasure is receiving your lovely letters with their sincere fundamental character. If I can, I will come only to you. The two of us will master life. I haven't changed and am strong and healthy enough to earn a living for us two. Whether I should immigrate to Eretz is not yet clear, I am often warned about the difficulties. There is still smoke in the kitchen, and all that only because of Ruth who was again insolent towards Uncle and I think that is why she is staying in Cologne for the holidays and doesn't want to go home at all. But you must not mention any of this. Ruth is often really insolent. How old are Uschi and Ilse? Show them my picture and introduce me: "Mrs Schonewald, how do you do"? Now you have me with you, you can give me a kiss every evening, but first put a glass in front of it. It's midnight and time to sleep, Dear kitten a thousand million kisses from your loving Mummy.

19 Dec 1939 Dear Irene, I am afraid I didn't enjoy your letter that I found on my return from Hadamar. It seems that you have fallen out with Mrs A because you long so terribly for Eretz. I have a feeling that you run too much and also that you are too much with the boys, which Mrs A cannot and must not allow in any circumstances. You should be much more grateful to Mrs A, as she does everything for your own good, and you must be good and sincere with her above all else. This kept me awake all night and today I am having terrible headaches. So listen to me and to Mrs A, who only wants what is good for you. Your life in Eretz wouldn't always be a bed of roses either, don't imagine that it would be as nice as in Kalundborg. Don't wish yourself away from where you are, in such a hurry because there you are well off. Now write to me clearly what is wrong, why you want to leave, and what you are going to tell the lady on the committee. Question marks and exclamation marks don't make me any wiser. Let me know immediately, but don't use any Lashon Kodesh (Hebrew) because the letters are read. You must never again upset me like this, or else I won't write to you so frequently.

Now I have let off steam and hope that you will mend your ways. Today your lovely parcel also arrived with 2 kg butter, 2 kg cheese and bacon, but no eggs, as you wrote. Everything tastes perfect and some of it will last me a long time. After all it's winter and everything will keep well. In Hadamar I heard by chance that Aunt Julchen has been in England since the end of August, and so have Clarchen and husband. I don't know if Aunt Fanny is still with us. From Krefeld I also had a big letter today and they are inviting me again. But now I am staying put; what would I be doing in Krefeld? I can also sit indoors here.

Have you written to Kobi about my illegal emigration? I don't believe that it will come to anything because nobody is likely to pay for my passage in foreign currency. I imagine that by now you have also received my pictures and I hope you like mine, it's quite true to life, so you still have a beautiful Mummy, haven't you? And one who can also get very cross. I hope that your next letters will give me pleasure once more. My dear Stunges, kisses from your loving Mummy

Freitag

Koblenz, den 28. Sept. 39

Mein lieber Kogel! Mit einem feintigen L.
Brief, Karte vom Sanatorium, Brief v. Kobi, fast, du
mir einen großen Freude gemacht. Außerdem
weil ich gestern einen großen Brief von Lotti
über Gamsig, den ich dir aber nicht einlege,
da der Inhalt fast derselbe ist, als in dem,
den du mir voriger Woche geschickt. Hier
spricht mir Lotti, daß sie schon ganz kadallot
sprachen könnte, & daß die Goldgruben gut
sahen, & wenn sie diese schon im Nordsee
bekommen hätte, wäre sie heute schon ganz
gesund; der Arzt hätte gesagt, er hätte sie nicht
sieh. die Gamsig, daß sie gesund wird
besser sie nach U.S.A. geht. Tom Rindlin spricht
mir, daß er sich beim Consulat nicht ausgeben
lassen wollte, er hätte doch gar kein Verlangen.
Max läßt allein von & kadallot von dort
100 Dollar für die Fahrt überreisen, die er aber
zurückgeben muß. Aber das, was Lotti hätte
mir sehr gerne in U.S.A. stillen hätte ich
mir nicht davor aufgeboten, mir einen
Kummer geben zu lassen für mich nicht, aber
da das Geschäft gewiss ist, & Max mir
so gut war, wollte ich nicht da sein, wo
für, Lotti & Max sind. Wenn es nicht mal
in Erz nicht nicht gefallen würde, so könnte
wir zwei ja immer noch nach U.S.A. zum
Max die Dingshats, etc. stellt. Das mir will
ich oft mal zu dir, wenn du mich auf dem

23 Dec 1939 My dear Dumpling, You have given me great pleasure with your dear letter of today. Lotte writes that she can now speak quite impeccably. Lotte would like me to be in the USA now, perhaps I could have made up my mind to request a number for both of us at the time, but as relations between us and Max have never been very good I didn't want to be where they, Lotte and Max, are. If one day we no longer liked it in Eretz the two of us could still go to the USA if Max were to act as guarantor etc. But now I want to go where you are, even though you annoyed me somewhat in your previous letter. I hope you are behaving well again towards Mrs Andreasen. Kobi and Lore are also writing very warmly and I hope it will go on like that when we are both there. If you have heard anything more from your friends' parents about the illegal journey write to me precisely whether the risks are not too great. You must stop cycling and travelling fast, it attacks the heart, so take care, Mummy.

31 Dec 1939 My dear Stungerich, Your dear postcard and letter from Copenhagen have given me very great pleasure. That must have been the best Christmas you have experienced so far. To be in such an elegant house and be given all these lovely and precious presents. Many children can envy you such a home, where you are treated with so much love. Here everybody was surprised that you have it so good. But you must be utterly good and well-behaved towards the Andreasen family to return all their kindness.

This is the last letter Irene received from me.

6 January 1940 My dear Herring, or have you put on weight, then I would call you "Plumppudding" in my next letter. Be grateful to Mr and Mrs Andr. because they will do anything for you. And now that beautiful toboggan! Tell them that I also thank them warmly for the beautiful Christmas presents, they are kinder to you than anybody else in the world. If I may advise you, stay there for ever, you know that you have it good there, while in Erets you would have to work hard with poor food. Perhaps you will make your way in Kalundborg and I have a better chance to get there some time than to Erets, because if the matter is so dangerous I will have to forego that opportunity. Perhaps it is divine providence that everything turns out that way and I may come to you sooner than to Erets. You can write to Kobi, and tell him that Luther's statement applies to me precisely: Here I stand and I can do no other, may God help me, Amen! - Otherwise nobody can help; Jaquun pour soi et Dieux pour nous touse! Everybody here today has enough worries about himself. My room is still free; therefore I haven't paid for it this month; why should I; she has more money than I, and I can't pay. However, I hope that the matter resolves itself soon. Yesterday I sold Wolff's grey jacket to Wiese and bought myself an electric hotplate instead. It is small but in the spring, when the cooker isn't so hot, it will fulfill the purpose of cooking some small dishes from time to time.

Yesterday school started here again, not in Ehrenbreitstein but where you were every Shabbes morning. All the children from the neighbourhood had to attend. You write that you are again hopeful of getting to Erets; don't be too pleased because now you are better off than any child ever in Ashkenas. If you are with Kobi Lore will be jealous of you and then there will be quarrel. - I know too well how things look in life, and you dear Herring are not too stupid either to understand that. Hang on there for a while and perhaps stay there for good, it isn't a change of climate and you needn't expose yourself to the great heat, I also have a horror of that. Have you been tobogganing? Be very careful that nothing happens and don't toboggan down a mountain. Here many children have had accidents. warm greetings and kisses from your Mummy.

Twelve days later, on the 18th January 1940, Irene left Denmark for Palestine. Since Germany was at war with England and Palestine was under English control, direct communication between Bertha and Irene was now impossible. However, since America was still neutral, Bertha could stay in touch with Lotte and receive news of her family via Lotte who was getting letters from Irene and Kobi. The remaining letters were all written to Lotte.

Koblenz, den 4. 10. 40.

Carin Lieben! Mein du schämst
sichst du, wie ich dich liebe, wie
viel ich dich liebe, wie ich dich
allein dort gut habe. Dieser Brieflein
ist großartig gelassen & groß &
vollständig geworden das ganze
Kontingente. Ich wollte dich schon
vorher etwas schreiben aber ich
habe durch meine Näheren keine Zeit
& konnte, daß ich nicht wenig schlafen
bin ich nun tags oft müde.
Gute, 2ter Dienstag bin ich froh,
mal dich zu sehen, bin zwar schon
Nachmittag zur Hofmoll. eingeladen
aber nicht muß dieser Brief zur Post.
Der Herr Heiers Tante erzählt ich, daß
dieser Herr L. Kae besucht hat, & fand
seine Hoffnung sehr unendlich
& schön. Du L. Lotte kommt dich ja
"von" schreiben, daß du es so
gelassen hast & glaube ich, wenn
du es so allein bist, bin ich
ich. Hier geht es G. J. & noch

gut & hoffe, daß es so bleibt.
meinen Brief wieder ich täglich
Anlassart, & möchte mich davon
wissen, wie weit die Verhandlung
wird, wiefern die Verhandlung
ob es schon unglücklich geist. Sei
dir L. Kae & Lotte sehr ich das ja
sowohl. Ich mag mir trotzdem
Vergnügen im Freie, & ich will hoffen
daß sie jugendlich, an dich geschrieben
hat. Können wir doch wohl jetzt
Glaubenshaft zum Schreiben was
unsern & denke doch, bald zu sehen
Gut hat sich wenig verändert
& geht alles so weiter. Gutten
schreib mir in. n. zu Köpffschreiben
nach Clara Paula, sie ist so
gesund in Tasterken & bescheerte
sich, daß sie nicht einmal geschrieben
kann. Ich bin für sie, auf den
Küchen nach Koblenz zu mir
kommen, & dann kann ich ich ja
anzusehen, daß es dich gut geht

March 1940 My dear Lotte, as for my emigration, I have tried more than everything, but always in vain. Kobi can't do anything from here at the moment. If you, dear Lotte, wanted to make inquiries at the Palestine Office I would be all for it. Irene has also written very contentedly and she has sent me 2 pictures on which she looks very well and plump. She is also doing all she can to bring me there soon, but I don't believe in it any more. Perhaps dear Max can do something for me. For the time being I can stay living here and everything is as it was. My life is very monotonous; the old acquaintances come as always, it's always the same. How should anything change? I hope we'll all be able to keep in touch like this for a long time.

After a 9 month hiatus, Germany invaded France on the 10 May 1940 and the war began in earnest

23 May 1940 My dears, It was a year yesterday since you left here, dear Max, and in this past year you have written to me very little. This is the 3rd letter I am sending you in Chicago and in addition I have asked Mrs Goldschmidt to give you my regards personally. So far there is no news whatsoever from you. Meanwhile, dear Lotte and our golden angel, you will have arrived over there safely and well and now I hope to hear from you soon. I was in Krefeld for a fortnight in order to see a different picture for a change, but I was glad to be back here because I had bad nights there. Here I sleep better.

4 August 1940 I can't understand why Irene isn't writing to you although she has your address and I am very worried. I was informed by the Red Cross last week that Kobi is well. I answered that Irene should immediately write to you. It would be good if Irene joined you, particularly as I have decided to emigrate to the USA and have had myself registered under No 55024. It is moving very fast and I can hardly believe that it will take 2 more days; but where do I find the guarantee and the passage??

Here our conversations always revolve exclusively around the latest issues or around the news somebody or other receives from their relatives. As far as my joining you is concerned, dear Max, please give me accurate answers to the questions in my last letter. I am all the more pleased as you are keeping your promise to do something for me, to give me your support. My life is still so empty and monotonous that I feel your kindness doubly. Now, once more to Kobi and Irene: do write sometimes what is really happening; I can't feel reassured till I have news

4 October 1940 Dear Lotte, what you write about Kobi is right, but what can one do? He has allowed Lore's parents to pull the wool over his eyes and has no energy whatsoever, or else he wouldn't have got involved in the argument with Irene and he would have kept her in his home as he should have done. Irene was not yet a fully developed person and Lore should have considered that a lot more. It has caused me great suffering. Today, dear Lotte, it's your birthday, and I have celebrated it quietly on my own. I received a parcel from the people in Krefeld and have given myself a treat from it. I have completely lost the habit of sharing with others because everyone only thinks of themselves, and I will do the same with your dear parcel; I have become quite consistent. Now we are having nice sunny days, but unfortunately we can't make much use of them. I wish you good luck with your new home and I hope that Irene and I will soon be able to see it. I would also be able to pursue my various sewing activities there and earn some money. Meanwhile you have probably made several trips by car and got used to this amenity. But I can't impress on you often enough to drive very carefully. This morning I received from Uncle Max a document about our building plot in Issum near Krefeld. A neighbour wants to buy this and offers 625 to be divided by 4. Tomorrow I have to see the notary to give Uncle Max the power of attorney to sell the land and my share will be sent here officially. It's money that I hadn't counted on and that will cover my dental expenses. My mind is now exhausted and I end with the warmest greetings and kisses, particularly for our small child.

10 June 1941 My dears, I have again been waiting in vain for your further news. Why do you always keep me waiting for post so long, which you know is the only thing that still gives me pleasure? Hoping that you are still all well, I can say the same of myself. In my life there are not enough events to write about. My daily sewing is my unchanging routine, and what my customers talk about is of course always the same. Now many people from here will be emigrating already at the beginning of July, some via Bilbao. I wish I had also reached that stage. If it is at all possible please send my guarantee immediately, so that I have it in my hand. I trust that in your next letter you will give me that because you know of course that that is necessary.

On the 22 June Germany invaded Russia

1941 Please inform Irene immediately that I am still well. I have written to Stuttgart for a number, but it has not yet arrived. I have no hope and I can already see myself sooner or later reaching the end of my life in loneliness. I am sorry for Irene. She has no research scholarship and Kobi isn't earning much now and who knows! - I am terribly worried and have regretted sending her away alone a thousand times. I can't explain it all off the cuff, but I read between Kobi's lines that it's already too much for him. I am suffering terribly, can find no peace, and on top of it this time full of horrors.

If I had known everything, Irene would still be here today and share the good and the bad with me like other children, I would have found some place for her here. Do your best, dear Lotte and dear Max, to give Irene good advice as to what she should do. She is young and has not been able to learn in the last few years, which is what Kobi blames her for; and yet, at her age he wasn't a professor either and had to have private coaching. Now I have let off steam, but every road is closed to me.

1 July 41 I would have liked to stay longer with Jette, but the time was not right. One finds no peace and quiet anywhere and one feels best at home - dear Kobi, I am very glad that you are sending Irene to a good school and I hope that God willing I shall see her again as a complete human being. It may be a great task for you, dear Kobi, but with a little patience and love everything is possible. I, as a mother, wouldn't feel hard done by even if I had to do without everything because instinct places the unselfish concern for one's children in one's lap. - But dear Kobi, if you do for Irene what you consider right and what you can justify to yourself I will be satisfied. Bear in mind that what I write to you comes straight from my heart and longing for you all is wearing me out. If I think how gladly I took care of Irene, giving her a whole trousseau in the crate, all my underwear and her good shoes and dresses, which would probably have lasted 10 years, and these good things are still with the Andreasens. Dear Irene, write to them yourself. I have written so often, but unfortunately received no reply. Have you no time to write to me? And how are you getting on at school? How good is your English now? I would be glad if dear Lotte's and dear Max's plan to let you, dear Irene, move in with them could be realised. If I could then come there, if I was still in good health, we would be together again. I would be able to earn my own living and wouldn't be a burden to anyone. - I am sorry, dear Kobi, that you have to work for a small salary. Isn't it possible to use your knowledge profitably outside your duty hours in order to secure your standard of living? The only glimmer of light in such a sad life here is when the post brings me something from you.

20. July. 41. I am well, thank God, have lost weight in the recent restless times, and am about to take my dresses in. In addition the grey hairs are gradually coming. I would gladly put up with all that if I had the good luck to see you all again. My emigration won't be so quick for the time being, because there are now new regulations to obey, as you have also experienced often enough there. My whole life consists of patience and waiting for good times. It's good that the sewing business takes up a lot of my time and I have people around me, otherwise I would become melancholic. Two weeks ago Jetta, who is in an old people's home in Aachen, wrote asking me to visit her for a few days and sent me 20RM travel money. As your aunt Sara was celebrating her 60th birthday in Krefeld I connected it all into one. I spent 3 days in Krefeld where we 4 sisters and brothers were together again and then went to Gladbach for a day in order to continue from there to Jetta in Aachen. When I got there the joy was indescribable.

Absender:

Wohnort, auch Zustell- oder Leitpostamt

Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk oder Postschließfachnummer

Postkarte
JEDER
Volksgenosse
Rundfunkhörer



Frau
Pauly
Göbling-Hettrich
Kengasse

Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk oder Postschließfachnummer

⊕ 3.41

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△ C 154 Din A 6

Lieber Fraulein Pauly,
Gladly write to you.
Love you all most
& best wishes in my
best regards.
I thank you for all your
goodness
with
best wishes
Bahnhofstrasse

Dear Fraulein Pauly,
I am leaving straight away.
Have a good life and keep me in your thoughts.
I thank you for all your goodness
Best wishes
Bahnhofstrasse

12 November. 1941

My dears I am glad that you, dear Max, are well again. I have also lost weight, but thank God without any pain and it has made me feel very well. The most important thing is that you, my dears, are well. Unfortunately my emigration has come to nothing, now it's no longer possible anyway and I must accept everything as it comes. You can't be expected to come up with the large amounts they are demanding there and so, in God's name, I'm waiting to see. For the time being I have here what I need to live on; I sew spats, tracksuit trousers, mittens and many other things. The people drive me almost mad, everyone wants to be served first. Yesterday Selma and Moritz wrote to me from Frankfurt that they must also leave, I was very sorry. Perhaps I will see them again soon. Today my acquaintances from Metternich were here and were very thoughtful, keeping me company all afternoon. This shows you that there are some good people left. I spoke a lot about all of you, which is of course always our topic.

Here things haven't changed much. Emigration has completely stalled. I myself go out rarely, i.e. once a week to Koppel and Salomon, and have little spare time because of the sewing. My hands are no longer up to writing. The paper is also so bad that one hardly dares to press hard. My teeth are about to grow and I hope my treatment will be finished by next week. I don't think I'll be able to get used to the substitute so quickly, but it looks better than a toothless mouth. They have all loosened recently and I had to swallow the bitter pill, or rather the plaster of Paris. - In the picture I sent you my mouth is somewhat shrunk, did you like it? Now I must stop, my fire has gone out and it's becoming cold.

Forgive the scribble, I am a bit nervous and also tired.

Keep well, kiss our little darling and have love and kisses from your mother.

This is the last letter Bertha managed to send to any of her children.

On the 22 March 1942 the Gestapo put Bertha, Ruth and her mother, the Koppel and Oster families together with 330 other Jews from Koblenz and the surrounding area, on a transport to Sobibor in Poland. She was 57 years old.

In the hours before she was deported she wrote a postcard to a woman who had shown her kindness in these terrible times. The card to Mrs Pauly conspicuously fails to mention Bertha's name. She signs the card Bahnhofstrasse so as not to put Mrs Pauly in danger. She wrote:

"I leave immediately. Have a good life and keep me in your thoughts. I thank you for all your goodness, Bahnhofstrasse"

Mrs Pauly later recalled "Her postcard arrived out of the blue - without any notice, she had to go to a Nazi extermination camp. I was greatly concerned, I had many questions - has she got this or that....."

That postcard was the last sign of life from her. She was a good woman, I liked her very much. I carried the postcard in my handbag for the rest of my life."

However the final communication came via the Red Cross. On the 12 April 1942 she wrote from the Izbica Ghetto to Kobi. "Dear Children. I am healthy. I have a great longing to survive. Let Irene and Lotte read this as well. I assume that you are all well. Urgent message. Heartfelt kisses Mother"

From Izbica Ghetto she would have taken to Sobibor Concentration Camp and murdered.

Koblenz, den 22. März 1942.

Liste der evakuierten Juden
aus dem Stadt- und Landkreis
Koblenz

Geheim

Lfd. Nr.	Name	Vorname	Geburts- tag u. Ort	Staats- angehörig- keit	Beruf	Wohnung, Strasse und Hausnummer.
127	Michel	Ferd. Isr.	26.10.79 Immendf. RD.	Wiethhändl.	Immendorf, Hauptstr. 73/65	
28	Michel	Wiem. Isr.	17.11.77 Immendf.	"	Immendorf, "	
29	Michel	Mielga S.	13.7.23 Bonnbaden	"	(zul. Boppard)	
30	Michel	Salina S.	24.1.82 Immendf.	o.B.	Immendorf, Hauptstr. 25	
31	Michel	Jenni S.	7.4.01 Arenberg	o.B.	Arenberg, Ad.-Hitler-Str. 7	
32	Michel	Rosarie S.	5.1.85 Immendf.	o.B.	Immendorf, Hauptstr. 245/48	
33	Michel	Eva S.	14.2.71 Hermann- stein	o.B.	Immendorf, "	
34	Michel	Sybilla S.	22.12.82 Freisheim	o.B.	Immendorf, "	
35	Loose	Sally	6.5.78 Metternich	Landl.Geh.	Koblenz, Weisserstr. 28	
36	Nathan	Julie S.	6.4.77 Vallendar	o.B.	Vallendar-Löhrstr. 41	
37	Nathan	Rosa S.	28.7.79 "	o.B.	"	
38	Oster	Sally	19.4.82 Löw	Weinh.	Koblenz, Löhrstr. 82	
39	Oster geb. Lei	Elise S.	26.7.92 Niederemmel	o.B.	Koblenz, " 16/18	
40	Oster	Reta S.	29.7.17 "	o.B.	Koblenz, "	
41	Oster	Hilde S.	29.4.28 Koblenz	o.B.	Foblenz, "	
42	Oster	Cilly S.	14.12.04 Loev	Kontor.	Koblenz, Bahnhofstr. 27	
43	Oster	Furt Isr.	15.6.26 Koblenz	Schlosserl.	Koblenz, Kesselweisserstr. 52	
44	Oster	Irma S.	4.1.14 Koblenz	o.B.	Koblenz, Bahnhofstr. 27	
45	Oster geb. Lieser	Jelanie S.	13.3.81 Wehring	o.B.	Koblenz, Götgenstr. 31	
46	Ostreicher	Karl Isr.	19.2.21 Vallend.	o.B.	Koblenz, Wizzast. 22	
47	Ostreicher geb. Doehauer	Julie S.	7.1.00 Eichtätt	Ehefrau	Koblenz, "	
48	Osterr.licher	Ulrich Isr.	25.3.86 Treuchtlin- gen	Kaufm.	Koblenz, Wizzastr. 22	
49	Richard	Ri Frieda S.	31.7.87 Altenuhr	o.B.	Koblenz, "	
50	Dr. Salomon	Arthur Isr.	21.3.96 Beuel	Rechts- konsulent	Koblenz, Kesselweisserstr. 52	
51	Salomon geb. Kohn	Alra S.	9.5.05 Neuss	Ehefrau	Koblenz, "	
52	Salomon	Ruth S.	23.6.33 Koblenz	o.B.	Foblenz, "	
53	Salomon	Josef Isr.	9.4.84 Vallendar	Metzger	Vallendar, Höhererstr. 14	
54	Salomon geb. Winter	Pauline S.	26.6.93 Gladbach	Hausfr.	Vallendar "	
55	Salomon geb. Stern	Rosa S.	10.4.91 Gilsberg	Hausfr.	Vallendar, Wallestr. 13	
56	Salomon geb. Löwenstein	Sabine S.	19.7.85 Gymnich	o.B.	Koblenz, Weisserstr. 28	
57	Sander	Ruth S.	18.1.25 Aengsdorf	o.B.	Urmitz-Bahnhof, Eulheimerstr. 14	
58	Sander geb. Berf	Salma S.	7.8.91 KRRlich	o.B.	Urmitz-Bahnhof "	
59	Sander	Siegund I.	30.7.95 Aengsdorf	Tiefb.Ar.	Urmitz-Bahnhof "	
60	Schaul	Adolf Isr.	13.2.90 Pinne	Kaufm.	Koblenz, Weisserstr. 28	
61	Schaul geb. Marx	Mielene S.	21.1.89 Fettich	Ehefr.	Koblenz, "	
62	Schneider	Boroth S.	10.8.95 Heddeshelm	o.B.	Kobern, Ad.-Hitler-Str. 15	
63	Schneider	Elisab. S.	22.1.97 Heddeshelm	o.B.	Kobern, "	
64	Schneider	Johanna S.	23.8.92 Heddeshelm	Bürovorst.	Koblern "	
65	Schönwald geb. Goldstein	Berta S.	23.4.84 Krefeld	o.B.	Koblenz, Bahnhofstr. 27	
66	Schubach geb. Rotschild	Berta S.	13.10.86 Ahrstein	o.B.	Eulheim, Koblenzstr. 18	
67	Schubach geb. David	Betty S.	27.7.94 Koblenz-Let- ternich	o.B.	Eulheim, "	



Arrival at Izbica 1942

On the 22nd of March, 1942, 337 known persons and a nameless baby were deported from Koblenz "to the East" in the execution of the "Basic Decree" and the "Guidelines". On the 21st, these men, women and children had to be at the school in Steinstrasse in Koblenz. They were registered and checked against lists and then their luggage was checked and they were physically searched. For the Gestapo that was a big task. Almost certainly all the SS men, the Koblenz Gestapo and detective officers were on duty, because the school had to be shut off and this large group of people had to be guarded. The gymnasium was unoccupied: the Gestapo laid down straw so they would not have to spend the night on the bare stone floor.

The next day, Sunday, the Jews were marched to the train station. There, they were "loaded". The transportation list drawn up by the Koblenz Gestapo shows their names, dates and places of birth, as well as their last address before deportation.

The loading took place in the 4th class passenger cars of the special train Da 17 of the Deutsche Reichsbahn. These special trains formed their own category "Da" which stood for "David". They had their own timetables and were mostly "Russian trains", in which Russians, Ukrainians and others were forcibly dragged to the West as slave labourers. On the journey back to the East they would be used to transport Jews. This transport, Da 17, travelled to Cologne, Dusseldorf and then through the Ruhr area. The destination was the transit ghetto Izbica near Lublin.

There, the Jews from Koblenz and other cities, a total of about 1,000 people, arrived 3 or 4 days later. Previously, Gestapo and SS men had made room in Izbica by deporting 2,200 local Jews to the newly erected Belzec extermination camp and gassing them there. The new arrivals were quarantined in these partially cleared houses.

If they survived the catastrophic conditions in Izbica, the Koblenz Jews would be taken to Sobibor extermination camp and gassed. None of them came back.



Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Präsidium / Auslandsdienst
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

23. MAI 1942 329663

ANTRAG

an die Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genf
— Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz —
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

REQUÊTE

de la Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Etranger
à l'Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève
— Comité International de la Croix-Rouge —
concernant la correspondance

1. Absender *Bertha Sara Schönewald*
Expéditeur *IZBICA, 1. W. Distrikt Lublin, Polen*
Generalgouvernement bittet, an *Alttestament der Juden*
prie de bien vouloir faire parvenir à *VIII/1403*

Empfänger *Fakot Schönewald*
Destinataire *Tel.-Avis, Palastina*
Goethestr. 5

folgendes zu übermitteln / ce qui suit:

(Höchstzahl 25 Worte!)
(^{ou} mots au plus!)

Liebste Kinder,
Bin gesund, hoffe Zeit zu überwinden
Habe große Sehnsucht. Lasset Irene
und Lotte auch lesen. Euer Wohl-
ergehen setze voraus. Umgehend
nachricht. Herzliche Küsse
Mütter.

(Datum / date)

12. 4. 42.

(Unterschrift / Signature)

3. Empfänger antwortet umseitig
Destinataire répond au verso



Jüdische Kultusgemeinden

der Regierungsbezirke Koblenz und Trier
Büro: Koblenz, Liebfrauenkirche 11

Bankkonto: Dresdner Bank, Nr. 10042
Fernruf: 723

Betrifft:

Koblenz, den 19. september 1946

Frau

Charlotte Hein

856 Barry Ave
Chicago 14 Ill

Sehr geehrte Frau Hein!

Ich erhielt heute Ihren Brief vom 5.9.46 und tut es mir sehr
leid Ihnen eine schlechte Nachricht geben zu müssen.

Einem jungen Mann von 17 Jahren, aus Bassenheim, war es gelungen,
aus dem Lager Izbica b/Lublin, in dem sich alle Koblenzer Juden
befanden, zu fliehen, jedoch wurde er später wieder verhaftet und
in das Konzentrationslager Auschwitz gebracht. Von diesem Jungen
erfuhr ich das Schicksal meiner Eltern, sowie sämtlicher Koblenzer
Juden, die nach Izbica deportiert worden waren. Ich möchte Ihnen
Einzelheiten ersparen und kann nur schreiben, dass Sie noch im
Jahre 42 gestorben sind.

Nachstehend gebe ich Ihnen die Namen der Ueberlebenden Koblenzer
Juden und Sie werden sicher entsetzt, über die geringe Anzahl sein.
Pollack, Sternheim, Appel, Gutendorf, Mayer-Alberti, Winzer, Mit-
scherlich, Pinhammer, Siegler, Prey, Kombert, Zimoch.

Von allen bin ich der einzige der aus dem K.-Z. zurückgekehrt
ist, während die anderen in Mischehe lebten.

Wenn sie irgend etwas in Koblenz zu erledigen haben, (oder nähere
Umgebung) bin ich gerne bereit Ihnen dabei behilflich zu sein.

Es grüsst Sie



Jüdische Kultusgemeinden für
Rheinland-Hessen-Nassau

Adolf Bernd

1. Vorsitzender

Dear Ms. Hein!

Today, I received your letter of 5.9.46 and I am very sorry to say that
I have to give you bad news.

A young man, 17 years old, from Bassenheim, managed to escape
from the camp of Izbica b / Lublin, where all Koblenz Jews
were, but he was later arrested and taken to Auschwitz concentration
camp. From this boy I learned the fate of my parents, as well as all
the Koblenz Jews who had been deported to Izbica. I will spare you
all the details, and can only write that she died in the year 1942.

I will now give you the names of the surviving Jews of Koblenz,
and you will be horrified at the small number.

Pollack, Sternheim, Appel, Gutendorf, Mayer-Alberti Winzer,
Mitscherlich, Pinhammer, Siegler, Prey, Kombert, Zimoch.

I am the only one out of all these who came back from the KZ -
the others were in mixed race marriages.

If you are ever in Koblenz, (or in its vicinity), I would be glad to help
you in any way.

Best wishes

Jewish Community Organisation für Rheinland Hesse Nassau