

No.8

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Budapest, Hungary

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Dear son,

My previous letter was sent on Sunday, 10th of February, at noon. I went to the post office and sent it to you and when I returned from there I was so happy to see your cable [ADD item no.] and although we haven't had to worry about you since Cape Town it was still very calming to know that you are over the sea cruise and everything that comes with that.

I can imagine that since then you are already trying to find some employment for yourself. In our thoughts we are following each and every one of your steps and we cannot wait for your letters to read about every detail of your life.

This cable was again one of the very nice thoughts of Aunt Ilonka [de Balogh]. She didn't tell us a word and behind our backs she went to Nandor to get to know the address of Gyuri [Nandor]. Of course her plan wasn't totally successful. She wanted to send you a cable without a signature so you would think that we sent the cable so you could directly reply to us. But unfortunately the cable office wouldn't take the without a signature and because she sent it on the phone she had to write her own name. So that's how it happened that the reply could only come to her and obviously you didn't know that it was her and you didn't know what was happening with all of that. But still it was an extremely big surprise.

I went to the office and I got your money. Jenő wasn't in the office when I went in. Benko welcomed me very warmly and she was asking about you and then the lady at the cashier was actually saying a lot of nice things about you and was speaking very highly of you how good a son you are. They didn't give me any receipt but they wanted me to sign a receipt which said that this money was for you.

Because of the war there was some demand for raw materials. In the last letter I said that the winter is a little bit better but since I sent that letter it got extremely cold and we had a snowstorm. This new wave is just extreme, we never ever had that. In the newspaper articles that I will cut out for you next time, you will be able to read details about it. The whole railway system is stopped. That means that for days we don't have coal coming in. If it doesn't get better in a few days, it will be very very bad. Already in a few places they decreased the heating or stopped it totally. For us, the heater is still on, but it's not as warm as would be comfortable. So I am actually sitting in my coat while I'm writing this letter.

The Leopolds weren't able get out of their house for two days. All the car traffic is stopped especially around the Gellert Hill [suburb of Budapest where the Leopold family lived]. Luckily those who transport the food they somehow on foot could bring up some food. But unfortunately there is no chance for heating material to come in the next days.

Piczu is happy because he again has some coal days off - he doesn't care and he's just skiing. For now the wind has stopped and the snow has stopped as well and a bit of sunshine has come to light. Hopefully we will be out of the troubles which we are, thank God, handling in-house very well.

Our excellent landlady and her very kind daughter sourced us some entertainment. It would be too complicated and long to tell you this story but actually it would be very funny and interesting just to just tell you a few details. Actually our landlady dismissed us as tenants, but I didn't take notice of this, first of all because she made a mistake instead of August this letter stated May and secondly this resignation letter we received it at 5.30 pm, but she could actually only dismiss us until noon, in that month, until the 11<sup>th</sup> of that month. So nothing was good about it. Of course we should be ready by now that probably she will come back and do the same for November. So they will probably dismiss us in November. But we are not sure about it because I believe they needed this apartment by August because they wanted the Szentkereszty family to move in. It could happen that in November they won't be interested in anymore about this apartment. This whole case was handled very poorly and Jancsi said that he judges his mum's and his sister's action by not being loyal to us. So actually we don't have anything to do but probably keep our eye open and see if we can find a suitable apartment for us.

Please tell Gyuri [Nandor] that we were so happy that he sent us a few lines through his parents.

A thousand kisses darling son

Dad