

Budapest, 24 December 1939.

No. 1/a.

Dear son,

You've written in one of your letters before that "no news is good news" so we are keeping ourselves to this saying. If we couldn't think of this saying, we would probably be very sad and it would be a very difficult and uncertain time.

We are counting the days and the weeks which we spend knowing that we don't know where you are. We are looking at the map and trying to calculate where you could be. We hope that everything is alright with you and will continue be so. All our thoughts and wishes and hopes will be with you on your journey. And I hope you know that.

Your mum in her letter has written to you, she told you everything that you should know and that is important. So I will just say a few more things that I thought you would be happy to hear.

About two weeks ago I had a phone call from Istvan Szabo, he said that he was your schoolmate. He was calling on behalf of another schoolmate whose name is Endre Gal, he lives in Bulgaria and he wanted Istvan Szabo to find out where you are and if you still work for the newspaper as a reporter in the newspaper office. I gave a well enough reply to them but I haven't heard back from them since.

Rotter was very grateful for your letter and possibly he replied to your letter. When I spoke to him last time he was a bit hesitant regarding the case. The quote was a little bit more expensive than he thought. This case is on hold at the moment because Rotter went on a Christmas vacation to the Tatra.

From Aurel [relative Sir Aurel Stein] I received a letter from Basrah [Iraq]. He is on the way to India and he's preparing himself to solve a very important archaeological problem but he's not saying what it is exactly. He spoke highly of you and he was saying how well you prepared your journey.

Palko [Nandor] has made a smaller invention, as a result of which they modified his 60 machines in his workshop based on his invention and as a result of that his prestige has increased at the firm and he will get a pay rise at New Year and he is trying to do everything and prepare everything to be able to go to Australia. Gyuri [Nandor] is writing very good letters and hoping that he will be over there with the whole N[andor] family.

Unfortunately your friend Deveny and another fifty people were fired from the office so they don't work there anymore. Ferko Beretvas' office (Am[erican] Exp[ress]) was closed because of the war and unfortunately he is without employment at the moment, two months after he got married. Soon he is going to get a job at the new aluminium factory.

Mrs. Bardos said that Tamas is extremely disappointed because after you guys planned a lot together, you left without saying goodbye and you haven't even written a letter since. How about you try to make this right?

Now we need to change our driving license because it's going to expire, and the lady at the office said that your driving license is valid for one year. I thought I wouldn't take your driving license which is for Hungary because I'm assuming that you will have another one in Australia.

A million kisses my son. We think about you a lot. Our family gathering tonight will be a little bit sad without you. We hope that somehow you can celebrate tonight there on the boat and we hope that you will not think about dark thoughts and that you have hope in success in your new life.

God bless my darling son.

Dad.