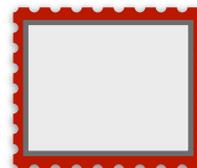


# Sending for Help | Letter 10



This final letter was posted eight years after the Nazis come to power  
... three years after Kristallnacht  
...six months before the United States joins the war.

Dear Minnie!

I'm shocked that I haven't received a single letter from you since February. I sent you a letter from the Hilfsverein in February, and before that about the journey by ship, and you didn't bother with this. The Hilfsverein also sent you a telegram, even with the response [prepaid], but no answer came of that.

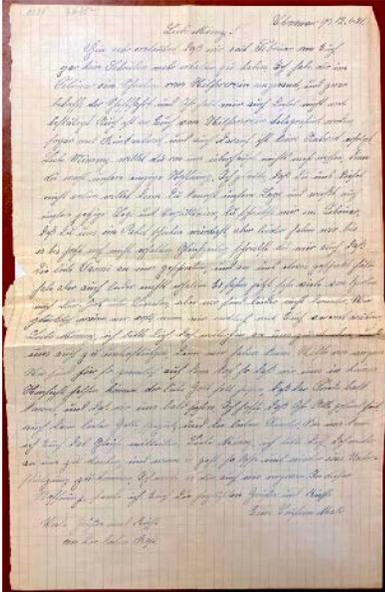
Dear Minnie, you don't want to hear anything about us anymore, and you were our only hope. I believe that you and (?) don't want to do anything because you know our situation and you also understand our current situation and relationships, you wrote to me in February that you were sending a package, but we still haven't received that. You also wrote to me that Fanny wrote to us and sent us something, but I unfortunately haven't received that either., Now there are [unclear] traveling from Berlin to New York via Lisbon, but unfortunately we're not a part of that. I believe we'd be first if we [unclear] finally with you. Dear Minnie, I beseech you, that [unclear] to think of us and also to support us because we have no other help. Here we're so [unclear] in the village, such that we can in no way travel, may God help us, that [Name?] comes soon and that we see each other soon. I hope that that you have [unclear], also [unclear] dear God and the dear children. [Something like may we share together in the glory?]

Dear Minnie, I beseech you, [unclear] to think about us again, and when possible, may we once again have a conversation. I will never forget this from you. In this hope I send to you the heartiest greetings and kisses.

Your cousin Mali



## Discussing the Letter



Malie's letter to Minnie,  
dated June 12, 1941

This is the final letter from Malie. In it, she is very distressed and feels as though Minnie has abandoned her. She has been eagerly awaiting parcels and letters from both Minnie and Fanny, but all of these seem to have been lost in transit. Because she is in Poland and each letter takes upwards of two months, she has no idea the lengths to which Minnie and her family have gone to secure their immigration to the United States. She ends the letter with a plea: save her family from what appears to be certain destruction at the hands of Nazi violence.

In November of 1941, the Nazis established an open air ghetto on Chrzanow. Earlier that year, the residents of nearby Oświęcim—also known by the German Auschwitz—were deported to Chrzanow. Construction of the notorious concentration camp began shortly after. According to records found in Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial museum, Malie and her husband Chaim were deported to Auschwitz sometime in 1942. They were murdered there by the Nazis. No records survive regarding the fate of their daughters Ida and Peppi, but it can be presumed that they were also murdered alongside their parents in Auschwitz.

Minnie kept the records of her correspondence with Malie. Her family donated this cache of letters to the Jewish Heritage Collection located within the College of Charleston's Special Collections Repository 26 years after Minnie's death.

### Key Themes:

*Despair, Desperation, Blame, Hilfsverein, Auschwitz, Minnie's decision to keep the letters, Archival deposit*



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### Discussion Questions:

1. Matthew M. Greene, an accomplished translator, worked on this letter after an earlier translator bowed out due to emotional distress. If Greene's skills were not the issue, what might account for the lack of clarity in this letter?
2. This is the final letter. After this arrived in South Carolina, Malie went silent forever. How would the end of this correspondence feel like for Minnie and her American family?
3. How might Minnie and her American family go about finding out what happened to the Landsmanns? How long might those answers take?

*Production credit — Grace Shaffer, Matthew M. Greene, and Chad Gibbs*