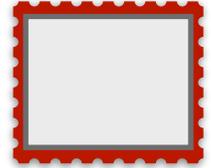


Sending for Help | Letter 3



This letter comes five years after the Nazis seize power in Germany
... it is one month after Kristallnacht
... and nine months until the war begins in Europe.

Dear Cousin Minnie.

I received the affidavits. Thank you so much. It brought me much joy and satisfaction. Unfortunately, we cannot use it to leave immediately, but at the consulate it is so crowded that you cannot even get to see anyone. And once you have made it inside, 'he' told us to do everything in writing and we are part of the Polish quota and until our turn comes, it may take another two or three years. I have to decide to look for another destination and then wait there until the time comes, when I can come to America. Still in all, it might still be possible to get a dispensation with your help from Washington. After all, there are always exceptions. I heard that one family received such a dispensation and are able to leave next week.

My husband is still in Poland and cannot come to see me. I, too, am unable to travel there. I don't know what will happen. I won't be able to remain here much longer.

How is dear Fanny doing? Is she well? It would be terrible if anything happened to her. She is such a good person. Actually, all of you are and you are going to such lengths to help us. The good Lord should reward you. And the good Lord should also help us and enable us to come to you.

Otherwise, I have no news to share with you. And keep on hoping that we are able to leave here soon [...]

....Best regards to everybody.

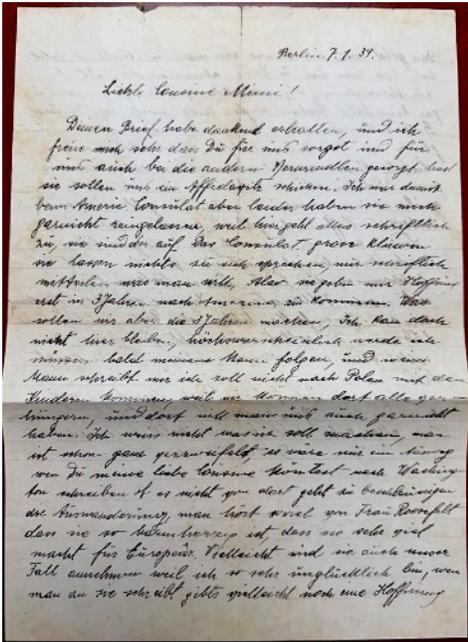
Your cousin Malie.

And best regards to Auguste Rose and dear Fanny and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Malie.



Discussing the Letter



Malie's letter to Minnie, dated
December 27, 1938

This letter, dated December 27, 1938, arrives after months of correspondence between Minnie and Malie. Minnie has been hard at work in the United States, relying on family and various officials and organizations. Because of these efforts, Minnie has been able to secure the needed affidavits for the Landsmanns' visas.

Minnie and her sister Rose were optimistic that the American cousins could pool resources to meet the \$2,751 cost of travel for Minnie and her family in today's dollars. The greater problem, however, was the quota system allowing only 6,524 "Poles" into the US and the fact that this might have meant it would take as long as three years for the family to emigrate.

Conditions in Germany have severely worsened for Malie and her family by this point. In addition to Chaim's deportation to Poland, Malie and the children next experienced the dangers of the November Pogrom without him present.

Key Themes:

*Quotas, Family, Alternatives,
Embassies/ Consulates, Urgency*



COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

ZUCKER/GOLDBERG CENTER
FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Discussion Questions:

1. What are quotas? Why is being under the Polish quota a further problem for Malie and her family?
2. How could the Polish quota cause Malie to wait for two to three years?
3. What would a trip to the consulate be like for Malie at this time?
4. How might Malie support herself and the children after the deportation of her husband Chaim?

Production credit — Grace Shaffer and Chad Gibbs