

**WTC007.** Handwritten Draft Letter from MKS in London to his mother Alice Schwitzer in Budapest. Since 8 weeks ago MKS has been working in London [he does not name his employer Bamag which was building chemical plants as part of the war effort]. He describes the office and daily routine, and the room he rents with a gas ring. His sister Jean Bolton is also now in London working. MKS sends his love to all the family.

22-9-41

Dearest Alice,

You will be pleased to hear that I have been in the capital for about the last eight weeks. So I finally secured a job and am working as a chemical Engineer. I work in the head office, in the [Engineering] Drawing Department [original: Zeichenabteilung]. The office is in one of the beautiful modern high rises and has very many employees. My salary is about 500 [Czech] crowns which is about equal to the buying power of 400 [Czech] crowns when you consider the rather higher cost of living here. That is per week and so by and large affords me a very comfortable life although I am hoping at Christmas to get my first decent pay increase.

The office is a really big one where everyone is always well dressed, where one is always going to wash your hands and where there are loads of telephones etc. You get in at 9.00 and start working at about quarter past. At around 11.00 a lady comes with tea on a trolley just like when we had guests at home. Lunch is from one o'clock till two o'clock. Usually I eat in the canteen, where you can get sausages, ham, cold roast beef and other similar light dishes. There is tea again at 4 pm and we finish at 5.30. We finish at 12.30 on Saturday and have the afternoon and Sunday free. I live rather far out of town and have a small but pretty room with a gas ring, so I can make small and simple meals for myself.

Susi [Jean Bolton] is, by the way, also here although she lives on the other side of town where she has a marvellous two room flat with all mod cons: central heating, bathroom, built-in electric fridge etc. She is making her own furniture piece by piece. Her husband is not so far from here and they see each other almost every weekend. Susi also has a very interesting job, earns a good salary and it is not even impossible that she will soon earn more than me, but I suppose she has already written about that herself.

With thousands of kisses and greetings to you, to Ernö [Weisz], Anni [MKS's sister], Pali [Anni's husband], father [Stefan Schwitzer], Aunt Ila [Ernö's mother] etc.

Your, Matyi.