

WTC009. Typed Letter on airmail paper from Jenö Hecht in Lisbon to Alice Schwitzer in Budapest. The writer has contacted MKS in England, and received a letter reply 2 days later, which he now forwards to Alice. The writer spoke by telephone the day before to his great nephew (presumably in Budapest) to ask him to tell Alice that they had received MKS's letter. The writer is about to depart by boat for America, and provides a forwarding address in Los Angeles.

Lisbon, 16 November 1941.

Mme.
Alice Schwitzer,
Falk Miksa u. 1.
Budapest.

Chère Madame,

Yesterday evening I used the occasion of a phone call with my great nephew to ask him to get in touch urgently with you to let you know that we had finally received a reply from Matyi.

I cannot tell you how happy I am myself at this news, not least because I myself was starting to get anxious that my urgent enquiries has remained unanswered until today and thank God the children are well and that Matyi's letter arrived just two days later.

We set sail tomorrow and our journey will last 30 days.

I attach Matyi's letter. As I have a huge number of last minute things to sort out before leaving, and so I beg your pardon for saying farewell in haste.

I and the whole family sent all our fondest love to you and I kiss your hand(s),

(signature) Hecht Jenö

Our address: c/o. J.Kammer 1342 N.Occidental Blvd. Los Angeles. (Usa)

Richard Oppenheim (translator) writes 16/2/2021

Great nephew. Where I have said great nephew, that is technically correct, but I suppose could be a more colloquial "my young nephew". Obviously I don't know the context, but I must say the rather formal tone of the writing would suggest the more correct form!

Address at the bottom is obviously that of the friend/relative/sponsor to whom they were going.

Portugal remained neutral throughout and was a great staging post to the US.

WPS Notes 16/2/2021

Alice Schwitzer is MKS's mother

Falk Miksa utca is in Pest, and runs parallel to the Danube, two blocks back from the river. (As of February 2021) No 1 is a rather impressive six story apartment block on the corner of Kossuth Lajos Square (the square behind Parliament), with four heavy ornate columns on the facade. Some windows in the building have a view of the Parliament building. No c/o address or hotel name has been used for Alice, so presumably at this time she was renting an apartment in this building in her own name.

Signature is believed to be Jenő Hecht, based on the content of Red Cross Message 006, which refers to Eugen Hecht. Note **Jenő** is the Hungarian form of the German/Austrian **Eugen**.

Children is in the plural, because MKS was in touch with his sister Jean Bolton in England.

Communication between Alice and MKS via Portugal. Portugal was neutral, so postal communication was possible with both Hungary and the U.K. at this time. It therefore provided a route for letters to be forwarded by contacts, that could not otherwise be sent directly. However, because of the writer's emigration to the USA the next day, it's clear the he/she could no longer act as intermediary after the date of this letter, so a different contact would have to be used.

How did this letter come into MKS's possession? This is unclear to me. It is conceivable (but unlikely?) that this is a copy on ultra thin paper which the friend in Lisbon also sent to MKS in England. But there are several other items of correspondence for Alice that came into MKS's possession, so more likely a batch of items was sent or given to MKS after the war, possibly (my speculation) by Pali Adler, who returned to Bratislava in 1945, as related in correspondence 040.