

WTC036. Red Cross Message from Alice Schwitzer, Benczur utca 28, Budapest, to Mat Schwitzer in London c/o Red Cross Message Bureau number 35 at 29 Charing Cross Road, London WC2. Message dated 27.2.1944 and stamped (by Geneva or by London on receipt?) 25.4.1944. Alice has been staying with her sister, and will soon go on a spa stay [a Christmas present from Ernő]. She sends (again) birthday congratulations [for MKS's 27th birthday].

Jännernachricht erhalten.-Bin von Besuch bei Boris zurückgekehrt, fahre demnächst auf kurzen kuraufenthalt.-Wiederhole nachrichtträglich unsere wärmste Geburtstags-Glückwünsche.-Sehr besorgt um Euch.
Küsse von Onkel.

January message received.-I returned from visiting Boris and will soon go on a short spa stay.-Once again our warmest birthday congratulations.-Very concerned about you.
Kisses from Uncle.

WPS Notes 11/2/2020 revised 6/3/2021

Alice = MKS's mother

Boris = Boris Polgar, the writer's sister, who lived in Gyöngyös, Hungary, and wrote items 104 and 105.

Spa stay. This is presumably the "two-week rejuvenating spa stay" given to Alice as a Christmas present by Ernő, as described in letter 039.

Uncle = Ernő Weisz, Alice's partner

Note about Red Cross Messages. Article 79 of the Geneva Convention allowed the Red Cross to pass on information between countries at war. These messages were restricted to just 25 words (as explained on the form) and had to be about family news only. All messages were sent via the International Red Cross headquarters in Geneva from where they were forwarded to their destination. By 1945, 24 million messages had been exchanged. This message took two months or more (depending on whether the April date stamp was by Geneva or London). So they were not exactly quick. But they were the only way.

Stamps. This message has:

- a red Hungarian Red Cross stamp
- a red Geneva Red Cross stamp
- a black octagonal censor's stamp
- an illegible black stamp