

**WTC038.** 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 June 1944. Stamped (presumably by Geneva as in French) 17.8.1944.

Denken viel und beten für Euch.- Beide wohlauf.- Fahre für längeren Aufenthalt zu Annie, hoffen dass Onkel bald nachkommen kann.- Schicket Nachrichten weiter an meine Adresse. Küsse

Date - Kelet: 1944.VI

Thinking a lot and praying for you. Both fine. Going to Annie for a longer stay, hoping that Uncle can come soon. Send messages to my address. Kisses.

Date: 1944.VI

#### WPS Notes 11/2/2020

**Alice** = MKS's mother

**Uncle** = Ernő Weisz, Alice's partner

**Going to Annie** = Alice will now return to Slovakia [alone], which was possible for her but not straightforward. She did this so she could go into hiding with people she knew, as she was now in danger of deportation from both Slovakia and Hungary.

**Hoping that Uncle can come soon** = as a Jew, Ernő could not travel.

**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 just to get to Geneva (assuming the French AOUT in the date means this stamp is by Geneva). 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 in English 'passed'
- an illegible black stamp