

**WTC048.** Handwritten letter from Zürich on thin airmail paper to MKS at 103 Gower Street, London WC1. The writer appears to have been a good friend of Alice Schwitzer (MKS's mother) from Budapest, whom she refers to as Litzka [affectionate form of Aliz]. MKS has asked the writer for help in tracing his family; she offers to ask on his behalf at a search office in Geneva. The writer was in Belsen for 6 months. All her family, and her husband's family, were deported. The writer saw Alice [in Budapest] on the day of her departure for Slovakia, and heard from Ernő [who left later] that Alice has arrived in Slovakia. The postmark is unclear, but from the fact that MKS is still uncertain of the fate of his relatives, the year is probably 1945.

Zürich, 4th September [probably 1945]

Dear Matyi! Please allow me to address you in this way, as your dear Mum has always referred to you as such when she x read your letters or x told about you [maybe two names to whom she read or talked?]. X is already 46 years old x - she could be your mum - for that reason I allow myself this way of addressing you and hope you won't be cross with me.

Xxx I reply x. I was very upset by your message about Litzka [Alice Schwitzer] and Ernő [Weisz] - if it is any consolation to you, I'd like to tell you that also everyone in my family and my husband's family has been deported. We haven't received any news yet but we don't give up hope. There is a search office here in Geneva where I could investigate about your family. For this I would need the following details - place of birth, year, last address, nationality - day and location of the deportation. Would you be so kind and give me quickly these details with your full name and I will forward them on. Or you can also directly turn to the X X with the request to forward the information to the search office Dr Polgar Geneva. Hopefully, we can achieve something in this way. Don't lose hope. I myself spent six months in Belsen, the worst camp, and can myself serve as a living example that one can bear it. I am certain that we will find your relatives. Also to me it would be a [start of page 2] particular pleasure to meet you - especially as the son of the dear Litzka - but also as the person whose letters I have always read with the greatest joy - who, according to the letters, must be a x person (without wanting to flatter you). Unfortunately, there is no prospect of a journey to London. We are here in Switzerland only in "transit" with the ongoing fear to be asked to leave for Romania. (We are from Transylvania

[German: Siebenbürgen] and are therefore now part of Romania). My 19-year old daughter studies medicine in Geneva.

I hope that at least she may stay here or may be allowed to go to France to continue her studies. If you wanted to get to know us, then you would need to come over - for you it is a trifle - for us it is currently unfeasible. I am very pleased to hear that Susi [Jean Bolton] has a daughter - how proudly did your Mum tell me/us that she would become a grandmother. I have seen the poor Litzka and Ernő on the day of their departure to Slovakia, was there previously nearly every day [?] - where [?] continuously reported what is to do. I also still heard from Ernő that Litzka arrived well and that he still tried to join her [?].

[the final lines are difficult to read]

That is fate - they ran [?] in the hope of rescue, we joined a transport with a death toll of 15.000 to leave the country (Hungary), connected and suffering we were deported - Our mutual friends Adlers went to Romania and were saved. - That is fate. – Your brother-in-law, Anni's husband, knew us personally when he was for Christmas 1943 in B'pest [Budapest].

All the very best and [continues at foot of page 1] please give Susi my regards - although we have never met [return to foot of page 2].

Kind regards, yours Jolly [Jolanda] Sipos/Sipas.