

Six days later on 18th May 1944 Boris managed to smuggle out a letter from the camp. See exhibit 15D It is a document of extreme human suffering.

I am translating it below:

" Dear Alice and Ernő,

Dr. Hajdu Béla, Vertanu Street - comes in daily to see the patients. - We don't ask for parcels for the time being - just news from the whole family. Food we still have, namely what we have brought with us for two weeks. We are out here since Saturday, on Monday I could still go in (to town) to bring some alkali, fuel and a few potatoes. Drinking water we have from a well of the City Board. We alternate carrying the water. - we are surrounded by barbed wire, Police are watching us. Advisers, doctors, pharmacists are visiting us but none of us is allowed into the town's only shop, pharmacy or tobacconist. Bread is brought out to us by the local religious office (jewish) against our ration tickets. From 7 o'clock we work, unwashed, until late afternoon. Today for instance two bedbugs were in the kitchen where 4 men sleep on wooden bunk beds and so all day - Ascension Thursday! - we scrubbed with turpentine, washed clothes and dusted. So far we have no permission to go to church. We are 28 Catholics and 10 - 15 protestants. - Pista works all day with Duschnitz Berti in the woodshed and in the WC and they make shelves and coathangers in the house. Today we have barley soup and paprika potatoes for lunch. Pista looks unrecognisably thin. Do not mention this to Aunt Nella. I feel like a down-at-heel servant all day with a floor cloth and doing the heaviest chores. There is no time for bitterness! I am missing terribly Mass and Benediction. If the Good Lord gives us health and there is no out-break of an epidemic, then perhaps we can hold out. - Since Gyuri left we had no news from him, but someone came from there (Jolsva) who told us that our child is working as a doctor virtually single-handed amongst 2000 persons who have recently arrived there. He is thus working permanently. Until he or we write - don't send him any parcels.

How is Ernő? What is going to happen in Nyúl Street? It is going to be terrible for them to move out. I hope that you are going to stay put?

Are Aunt Ila (Erno's Mother) and hers doing well ? Is Jancsi (don't know who that is) still in Budapest ?

We are praying - tell our Father some calming news - not the truth. .

To Annis send our kisses and through you to all the family. May the Good Lord be with us all.

with love Boris"

My comments are in brackets. Gyuri is of course George, Pista his father.

I acknowledge help received from George in translating the above communications.