

[English] No. 3 /No. 2 was sent by ship mail to Sydney/.

[Hungarian]

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6 Vermezo St. District II

Budapest, Hungary

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Number 3

Dear son,

For Christmas, your mum has enlarged your passport photo by Balassa, who did a very good job. The picture is wonderful. It has a beautiful frame and it is placed on the top of the chest of the drawers next to your mum's picture when she was a little girl. During the Christmas period we had a lot of guests coming over and everyone noticed this picture and everyone noticed the family resemblance. They said you look like Uncle Oli [Oliver Jacobi], Uncle Vici [Victor Jacobi], or Aurel [Pollak], my younger brother. They could be right about that. Myself I think they are all right about who you look the most like, and I think we can be very proud of that.

But after all of that I'm sitting in my armchair and looking at your picture and in that picture I can see a cheerful, strong, sarcastic and superior smile with which you look at me and that gives me a good reassurance that it will be alright.

I hope, even though your journey must be very hard, that you still have good humour and you are looking forward to arriving and that you will be strong enough to face the challenges that await you. We are so curious and can't wait to hear about every detail of your journey and we can't wait to hear the first news about your journey.

Next week it will be one month since you started this journey and by our calculation one of your letters should be here soon. We are kindly waiting for you to hear from you but we are calm and we are sure that everything is going to be alright.

During this Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations we did our best to resist the temptation of being sentimentalists about you and we know being sentimental is not our way but it was hard to resist this temptation to be sentimentalists. Christmas night we had a few guests, the Leopolds, the Badics and then after dinner we had Leonie Guttmann and the Hevesi family. The Balogh family went to Faczankert for New Year's Eve. They came back and they spent the night with us and the Leopold family. We thought of you when we toasted at midnight and we were wondering where you were in that moment on your journey and what you were doing right then.

Piczu [Istvan Pongracz] went to Rador on the 22nd of December and from there he went to the Balogh family and he spent New Year's Eve at their place. He had a very good time during this vacation and we can say that even though he spent this vacation with strangers he still had a good time, and he really enjoyed the nature and bonded with the nature and it was really good for him to experience this. It's true that you know his studies are not the best. He is not really applying himself

to the task. He had a lot of doubts regarding to his exams, but now he believes that he'll get through it somehow.

Otherwise our days are quiet and thank God we are healthy and we don't have any other problems or trouble. We are hopeful and trusting in regards to how things are developing and we are hoping that we can stay away from the armed conflict. Our government has been amazing in the way that they have stayed out of the conflict so therefore our trust is with them. The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs is in Italy right now and I think we can be assured that this trip will help our country and solidify our situation.

There is not much news from the extended family. Unfortunately, nothing from Metallo either. I thought because of the new year we would hear from them, but unfortunately we haven't heard from them at all. Hopefully when we have the annual assembly we might hear from them. I had a phone call with Mrs. Korner. They are still not in a good situation. She was saying that it's hard to let an engineer go, but they are hoping that they will be able to begin their journey in February by boat. I don't know how much you want to keep in touch here in Hungary with the extended family.