

BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE WAR: WAITING FOR AN ANSWER

9TH GRADE



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Texts of 9th grade students

**SEPAM Literature Project
2024 Edition**

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O Colégio Pontagrossense – SEPAM tem a honra de desenvolver junto aos alunos do ensino fundamental – anos finais o projeto literário Coletâneas Sepam, uma iniciativa que busca estimular os discentes à prática da escrita, mostrando-lhes que cada um possui habilidades e competências discursivas únicas, as quais podem ser vistas e esmiuçadas no texto, visando, sobretudo, valorizá-las.

Desde 2017, o projeto Coletâneas Sepam integra a disciplina de Produção Textual com escritas multifacetadas e gêneros diversificados. A partir de 2019, a língua inglesa entrou em cena, para enriquecer ainda mais as produções. Com propostas inéditas e criativas, os alunos do 8º e 9º ano compõem um livro duplo, ou seja, com duas vertentes, portando textos distintos, em português e inglês.

Neste projeto, a identidade e a subjetividade dos alunos não estão somente na escrita, mas também nas produções artísticas deles, as quais tornam a obra completa mais vivaz e dialógica tanto para quem produz, quanto para quem recebe a mensagem apresentada. Diante desta missão, as aulas de Arte tornam-se verdadeiros ateliês surpreendentes e comprometidos com a proposta do projeto.

Vale ressaltar que o Coletâneas Sepam corresponde a uma ferramenta pedagógica que visa dar asas às palavras tecidas na sala de aula, invadindo outros espaços e encantando desconhecidos leitores, sem deixar à margem a essência e a verdade do aluno escritor, assim como os conhecimentos e as experiências de cada um. Estes são fatores preservados durante as várias revisões, externas e internas, as quais são realizadas durante o processo de construção dos materiais.

O compromisso do Coletâneas Sepam e do Colégio Sepam é respeitar o aprendiz escritor e o processo evolutivo dele, dentro e fora da sala de aula, na formação de uma trajetória incomparável.

Convida-se a todos para embarcarem nesta viagem literária e se permitirem explorar outros mundos, tendo como norteadora uma eficaz ferramenta: a leitura.

Prof. Marcela Marabeli Pagano de Oliveira
Idealizadora do Projeto em 2017

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Preface

In 2024, you, dear reader, will be able to find within Sepam Literature Project, an exchange of fictional letters that refer to the Second World War and report various episodes occurred during that period.

To this end, the 9th grade students carried out research work during some classes in the beginning of the second semester so that, with excellence, they could choose or even create an inspired story for writing the letters. In pairs, they let their imagination guide them to unthinkable places, and it will make you question yourself: is it really so?

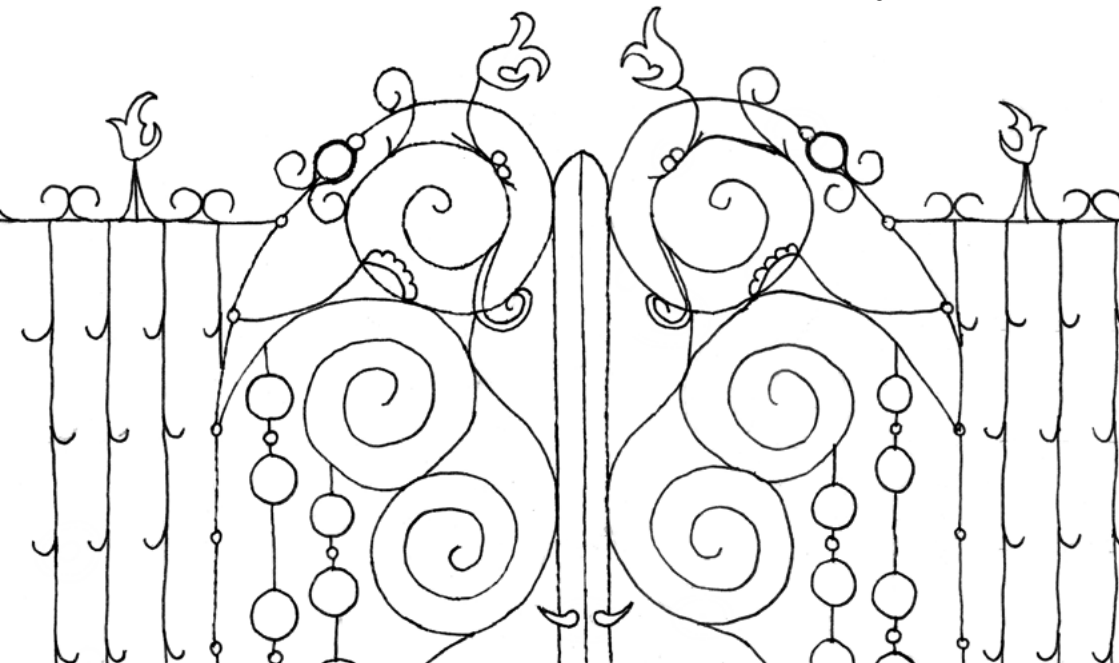
Our student authors describe situations that, possibly, many people faced during the war, passing through concentration camps until reaching scientific laboratories to create nuclear weapons.

Dear reader, enjoy this journey through time and be moved by every word written here. We are sure that it will be an experience rich in surprising feelings, and if we can give you a little tip: prepare your tissues.

Enjoy!

Miss Jaqueline Maria Zanluchi

English Teacher





Germany, July 10th, 1944

Dear Clara and Iza,

Since the persecutions and the start of the war, I haven't heard from you anymore and I'm very worried. As I remember when you said where you live, I will leave this letter with some supplies and warn you about what is happening out here. I'm planning to run away from this place and go to another country to escape the war, and I intend to take you with me, so I need you to be alert with the things I will send you and follow some steps. It will be possible for us to escape from Germany together and start a life away from here.

Things out here are getting worse and worse, the persecutions have increased and there are deaths everywhere, a few days ago there was an invasion in Normandy, some troops from Western allied countries carried out a military operation that started the liberation of France and increased the pressure on Germany, it's all chaos! I ask you to remain hidden and be very careful. I promise you, my friends, we'll be living together again as once we have lived, with great happiness in our childhood.

With love,

Luiza.

Brazil, March 23rd, 1947

Dear Luiza,

We wanted to thank you for everything you've done for us, and it is thanks to you that today we manage to start a new life in Brazil and move on, regaining what we have lost. We managed to rent an apartment near here. Tomorrow we will be off and we want to pay a visit to your tomb, because we miss you so much, we miss our friendship very much.

We feel that you are still with us, accompanying us and guiding us on everything, making our days happier. We remember when we were children and we had ice cream and played in the square near home, and today we are here without you by our side. We promise to fulfill your biggest dreams that you told us and we will remember you forever. It is through this letter that we leave in your grave along with the pink tulips that you loved the most that we say goodbye to you with great sadness.

Xoxo,

Clara and Iza.

Germany, Dachau, February 20th, 1940

Dear Miriam,

How are things going there? Today I discovered that Raquel, that girl who keeps stealing the elderly's food, is in love with Ezequiel, that handsome boy that we saw at the transport, but he hates her for her attitudes and robberies. I think he's right for disliking her, because it isn't right stealing food from people, mainly from the elderly.

How are the girls there? Here, they are very sick, the doctor discovered a new injury in our accommodation. Some girls are bedridden and are not able to work at the factory, so the Nazi are mad at us because of this.

Do you remember Helena, that girl that we talked to on the transport? Today they sent her to the chamber with nine other girls that were sick. They have sent each day more girls to the chamber, our situation is getting worse. I hope the situation in your accommodation is better than here.

Take care until our next letter, with love,

Ruth.

Germany, Dachau, March 21st, 1940

Dear Ruth

Here is like always, an endless sadness, but when I see your sister coming with a paper in her hands (our letters), it makes my day. Thank you for the concern.

I never liked Raquel. Some days ago, I saw her in the factory where we work. She was full of herself because her work is less complicated than mine. I hope the Nazi sends her to work cleaning the chamber, that way, she stops being snobby.

Some girls are good, but the majority have lice and they pass it on to others. In the last week we had a typhus breakout, but now things are better. What a shame that Helena went to the chamber, I really liked her, I hope we are not the next ones. Yesterday a six year old girl gave us more food, but a Nazi soldier saw it and took her somewhere we don't know. I hope she is well, alive and well.

Going back to Raquel's case, I don't judge her for wanting Ezequiel, he really is a Greek god, but he's very young to me. I wish the girls well, and I can't wait to see you and get out of here.

With love,

Miriam.

Poland, October 28th, 1940

Dear Ruth,

How are you doing? I hope this letter reaches your hands safely, as I bring news. After I was evicted from my apartment, I was taken to a ghetto, I thought I wouldn't last so many days there. Fortunately, I was informed that there were people willing to free us. I managed to escape without any problems, but I will never forget what I saw in that place, atrocities, sure. So, you must be wondering where I'm sending this letter from. You wouldn't believe it if I told you that I'm in the big zoo in Warsaw, it sounds crazy, but it's true. Despite all the difficulties we've been through here, I can say that it isn't not that bad, it's a great place to stay, the people who help us are wonderful. Besides that, you'll be happy to know that I found an amazing man who makes me feel good. We spend our free time with each other, hoping that the war will end and we can be together. But while that doesn't happen, I hope you get here as soon as possible, you'll love living in this shelter and meeting the man I love.

I miss you, with kindness,

Anne.

Poland, December 2nd, 1940

Dear Anne,

It's been a long time since I've heard from you. I'm happy to know that you are still optimistic about the war and even more excited that you've found someone to share your days with. I was recently kicked out of my house, but I hid among the rubble to avoid getting caught by the Germans. I only survived until now because there are still good people in this country, I spent my days asking for food for the few who can still share. Some reported me, but you know me, I was never easy to find. The nights were colder, I slept with other Jews in an abandoned basement. There are many problems there, the cold and discomfort are big, but we can sleep for a few hours. When I received your letter, I quickly told the others, they couldn't believe that there was still a place that would welcome us without asking for anything in return, only a child trusted me, I have taken care of her like my own daughter since her father died in the war and her mother was sent to the ghetto. You will love knowing that in a few days I will be there, we can finally meet again and be the reason for each other's happiness.

I hope to see you soon,

Ruth.

Palestine, January 3rd, 1945

Dear Anna,

You may have noticed that I no longer showed up for our secret meetings in the camp. I apologize for my disappearance, I would like to tell you something that is changing my life.

Some missionaries appeared on the side of the field, helping us to catch The Lost Train, which brought us to Jerusalem. I'm extremely happy to have been released, the conditions there were very difficult, I hope they help some people like you on the other side of the camp. I really miss you and Sane who didn't come with us. I miss playing together at school, times when the world wasn't destroyed like it is now.

I'm living in a refugee shelter with my sister Gabriele who was rescued with me. We are in a space with 30 girls, it's actually much better than it was there, crowded and stuffy. Here isn't an incredible place, but we didn't go through as much suffering and precariousness as when we were in the camp, I just have to thank them.

Tell me about you! How are you? I hope we can meet again someday.

Kisses,

Louise.

Germany, May 5th, 1945

Dear Louise,

I'm very happy to know that you were saved from this hell on Earth that is here in Bergen-Belsen and that you're in better conditions with your sister and other people.

Life here in the camp remains the same, the work is very tiring, we still go hungry and the food is still terrible and doesn't sustain the effort we make. There are a lot of cases of typhus here, it hurts my heart to see so many people suffering from this horrible disease. I also miss you and Sane a lot, our meetings, conversations and games, it was so good!

Everything is fine with me, despite the difficulties. But I feel so alone without your company, even though we didn't see each other most of the time, it was something I was waiting for: the time of the day that I would meet you. I also hope that I can be rescued like you and that we can meet again sometime. Keep sending me letters and telling me the news and I'll do the same!

Kisses,

Anna.

England, 4th of March, 1940

Dear Allan During,

Hello, I'm Augustin Foden, director of British Engineering and Technology, working for the government. I have been ordered by my superiors to choose one of the best engineers in the UK to be in charge of a project we want to develop. You have been chosen, with the help of others engineers and scientists to do this job.

I don't know if you're aware of this yet, but our translators have discovered that the German patrols are using a kind of code to communicate with each other, which leaves us without any information about them.

The government urgently needs you and your team to research this problem and find a way to solve this enigma. Please contact me as soon as possible with the solution.

Best regards,

Augustin Foden.

Milton Keynes, 20th of August, 1940

Estimate Augustin Foden,

Through my studies and research I have developed a machine that I called "electromechanical pump" or "the bomb". This machine works in a way that deciphers German messages from the "Enigma" machine.

These messages are used by German forces in the form of radio waves and are therefore easier to intercept here in Bletchley Park. It was possible to decipher information on the location of German vessels and our army had already chosen their route in advance.

My department is being increasingly respected and becoming high-ranking, due to the importance that my machine has. I programmed the bomb anticipating the existence of parks that were repeated in most of the messages and noticed a major flaw in the encryption used by Enigma. Enigma can be configured in 26 different encryption modes, based on 3 mechanical axes connected together.

With pleasure,

Allan During.



Poland, July 18th, 1942

Hi my love,

I found some time to write to you, I honestly don't know when you will receive this letter and I know even less when I will see you again, but this time waiting is slowly killing me. Here in Auschwitz everything is "fine", as far as possible. The conditions here are getting worse every day, but the only things that give me the strength to keep fighting are the desire to see you again and the brightness and happiness in the children's eyes when we started our clandestine art classes. I don't know when this letter will reach you, I don't even know if it will arrive, but I hope you write back to me and let me know everything is happening there. Are you okay? Are you injured? Is there any chance this war ends? Well, never forget that I love you...

With love,

Mia

Russia, March 3rd, 1943

Darling, Mia Schneider

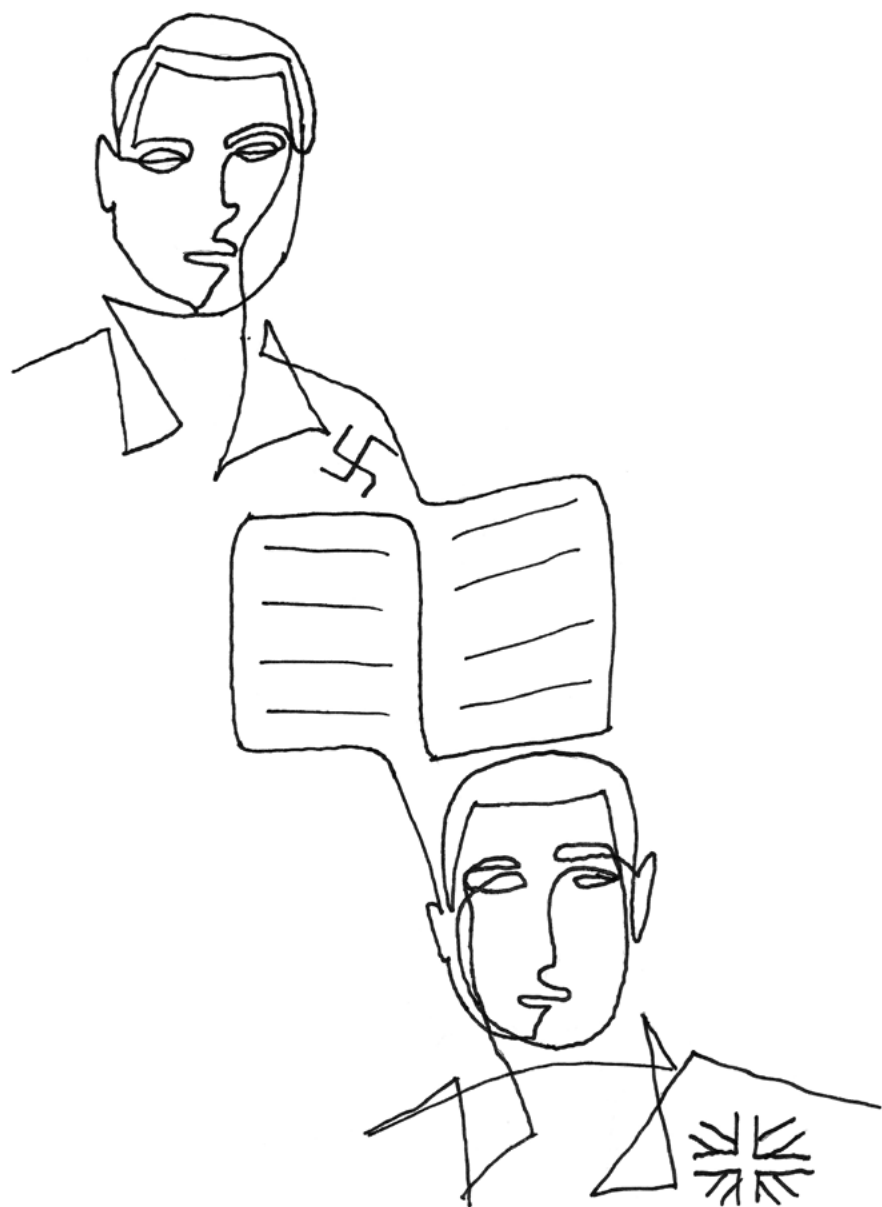
I miss you too. Things are better here in Russia now, but we still have traces of the Battle of Stalingrad. There were many deaths, I can't express how I felt about everything that happened.

Their invasion was part of Operation Barbarossa, which sought to take over the cities of Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad. An important industry park and strategic oil passage. Everything was so brutal, the arrival of the Nazi troops by land, Hitler's obsession with the territory. It was all hell, they didn't look like men, they were savage beats out for blood. The order dictated by Stalin forbade us to leave the battlefield, but luckily those vermin called Nazis couldn't stand our winter and retreated on February 2nd.

I'm fine, darling, don't worry about me, I love you too, my dear.

With love,

Mikhail Smirnov



Berlin, May 25th, 1944

Dear Mr.Smith,

I trust this letter finds you in good health and high spirit. I am writing to you in utmost secrecy regarding critical information that has come into my possession during my undercover operation within the ranks of the Nazi German forces.

There are some important points in my report, there are troop movements towards Stalingrad, which could pose a direct threat to our allied forces. Immediate action is recommended to counter this move effectively. Another important point is: High-level meeting, because of that, I discovered that Rudolf Höss is planning to move all Jews as far away from the coast as possible. This presents an opportunity for us to gather vital intelligence and disrupt their plans.

I urge you to handle this information with the most care and discretion, ensuring that it reaches Prime Minister Churchill's desk without delay. Our victory in the way depends on it.

Sincerely,

Sir Stones

London, July 1st, 1944

Dear Sir Stones,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we talk secretly, please be careful with the information that Prime Minister Churchill talked about.

With the knowledge of troop movements, defensive fortifications must be reinforced in areas that will be invaded by Nazis. At the same time, collaboration with allied forces is essential, requiring a strategy of preventive attacks to disperse enemy movements. Increasing our efforts, infiltrating high-level Nazi meetings becomes imperative to extract useful information about enemies. Simultaneously, covert operations must be explored to sabotage Nazi communications and logistics networks, impeding their capacity for coordinated actions.

In closing, I beg you to treat this letter with the utmost discretion. Our success depends on the secrecy of our operation. Wait for orders from above.

Take care,

John Smith

Germany, April 27th, 1947.

Dear Laura,

The war has been over for some years now. A few days ago it was published in the newspaper that Hitler killed himself in a bunker. After this conflict, a photo album of Hitler was found that could change the view of the war. The album, however, disappeared. They say that the photos included relaxing moments with other high-ranking members. In addition to photos of Hitler, the album contains images of parties, social events and travels, offering a stark contrast to the images of war and destruction associated with the Nazi regime. The most accepted version is that a soldier stole the album and hid it. This soldier managed to free himself from all questions he was subjected to. The particularity of this album is not only the fact that it remained secret for several years, but because it brings together both Nazi troops and Hitler and concentration camps. So far nothing has been discovered about it, that's what happened at that time. When I have more information I will let you know. I miss you.

With love,

Olga H.

United States, August 7th, 1947.

Dear Olga,

I found out that Hitler died, but in another way, they told me that he was murdered and they also told me about this photo album. I was told that someone stole it so no one would know what was inside and that it was probably a Nazi soldier who did it. This album could change the view of the Second World War and the soldiers didn't want that to happen, so they vanished with it. They said that the Nazis are spreading lies about Hitler so that everyone will keep talking about him, so that words about him are always circulating throughout the cities, even after his death. Nothing has been confirmed yet, let's talk to each other with every new piece of news we discover, it's all very confusing right now. I miss you.

With love,

Laura F.

Japan, September 17th, 1945

Dear Miss Line,

Mr. Hiroshi was on a business trip in Hiroshima, he was on his way to his hotel when a bomb hit his bus. On August 6th, 1945 the city of Hiroshima was attacked by a nuclear bomb. We found Mr Hiroshi injured and with burns all over his body, but still alive. He was taken here, to Nagasaki University hospital, where we offered him treatment and shelter. He is a hero and is fighting for his life. He is getting better from his injuries and hoping to see one of his family's member soon.

From Nagasaki University Hospital

Japan, October 15th, 1945

Nagasaki University Hospital,

We are grateful that you are taking care of our beloved Hiroshi, we are very desperate about the situation and we are going to the hospital as soon as possible. We hope to leave Kyoto on Sunday to stay with him, because now that the bomb attacks happened, the roads are very dangerous. We were so afraid that the worst could happen to him as he is already an old man. We're also concerned about his psychological state, because it's a situation that causes so much trauma due to how serious it all happened.

Grateful for everything,

Hiroshi's family



Poland, October 16th, 1945

Dear Janny,

At the moment I am at a train station in Poland, as you probably know the war is over, and I am coming home. I hope that you and the kids are okay, so unfortunately the first train is full and the next I will be able to take it next week. I honestly don't know for sure how long it will take to get back home. So hold on for a few more weeks.

I miss you so much and as soon as I get home I'll hug you and never let you go anymore. Unfortunately I lost a lot of friends during the battle and I am sorry that I left you alone during all these months. I hope I arrive home before the baby is born.

Sweetheart, I know it's useless to tell you not to worry about me but even so I will tell you not to worry about me, 'cause even with one arm I am fine.

I love you...

Brunswickk

Netherland, Dezember 28th, 1945

Dear Brunswickk,

I am glad you are well, I imagine it must have been very difficult for you. Regardless how you are, with or without an arm, I will still love you.

I understand that staying longer in Poland is very distressing for you since you're not able to return home, as you have stayed to help rebuild the cities. When you arrive, you will finally be able to meet our son. He was born prematurely, but he is strong, healthy... About the other boys, the older one is getting married with the daughter of our friend. But unfortunately one of them is sick, I believe he is going to recover but the doctor said that is dangerous so he might not be here when you come back home. We wish you a good trip. Now we can finally return to our lives. We miss you so much. Please, return to me.

With love,

Janny.

Hawaii, December 7th, 1941

Dear Luke,

How are you? Are you enjoying your life in Liverpool? You heard about the attacks that happened at Pearl Harbor, didn't you? The Japanese navy attacked with the purpose of neutralizing the United States Pacific Fleet so that they could expand territory in Southeast Asia. I learned that the attack involved several destructions of American verses and aircraft, causing more than 2.400 deaths. I think The US is going to go full force against Japan and its allies. I heard that they are preparing to attack Japan, but I don't know if it's true. I don't believe they can do it so quickly, but I don't know. I hope you and your family are safe and that Germany and Japan don't attack England. Take care of my family for me, please. I will be prepared for anything that could happen. Do the same, please.

Bye, take care,

Kadu.

Liverpool, England, March 9th, 1942

Hello, Kadu,

I'm a little bit scared by all this war thing, but overall, I'm fine. What about you? How's it going? I knew that the attack would result in major problems, but I would not imagine these numbers of deaths. Now that The US has declared war on Japan, I think we have a great chance of winning the war with The US as our allies. They have a powerful and numerous army, which will help us a lot in facing the other side. I heard rumors that The United States intends to attack Japan by surprise, when they least expect it, they intend to drop bombs on Japanese territory. Honestly, I don't think the Japanese have a chance against The US. They are growing more and more in all aspects, it is becoming quite powerful. If you know anything else, write to me, I'll do the same.

Take care,

Luke.

Nagasaki, Japan, October 05th, 1941

Sergeant Eastwood,

I demand that you, Americans, shut down the Pearl Harbor base immediately, as the entire Pacific will be our domain. No small threat will interfere with our plan. I am sending this letter to make you realize that the Japanese nation is not a joke. There will be serious consequences for your country, and we are not afraid of using hostages. In the following three months, if we don't have an answer or an immediate shut down, there will be an attack on my orders and I will not be afraid to meet you face to face, Sergeant Easttrash.

You can be sure that I will be sending more than 350 planes and most of my ships. My soldiers have blood in their eyes, they could not tolerate a bad government, totally full of flaws like yours. And you can be sure, I know exactly where the problems are at your base. Operation Z will be a success.

Sergeant Nakamura.

New York, USA, November 01st, 1942

Sergeant Nakamura,

You, Japanese people, know that you are dealing with a serious thing. The American army is informed that Japan is dominating the Pacific, where our Pearl Harbor base is. If you dare to attack our base, there will be very big consequences. The United States has a powerful military and nuclear power, ready to join the war. I understand that Japan is dominating the entire Pacific and part of Asia. Not just any country will defeat a base as strong as ours, if you dare to attack, the war for you will be lost, our base was created with security objectives for our country in Hawaii and there is no purpose for attacking a base and then having a nation destroyed, affected and traumatized, if no one stops you, we will. I don't care how much army you can attack with, we will counter attack with more intensity, and your life will become hell. Nakamura, you are messing with the strongest and most powerful nation in all the world.

Sergeant Eastwood.

Poland, July 25th, 1942

Dear Takashi,

I was caught and brought to Auschwitz, a well-known concentration camp. When I arrived, people were organizing themselves into two lines. The Nazis were recommending that women give their daughters to the older women. Doctors were deciding whether people would go to the right or to the left, but no one knew why, a young man of about 16 saw that his grandmother went to the right with his sister and that his mother went to the left with his brother, so this young man told his other brother to go to the right with his grandmother because he believed it would be safer, the doctor who was directing people let him go with his grandmother. Little did the poor young man know that he was leading his brother to his death. I went to the left and then I discovered that the people on the right survived and those on the left are eliminated. These last few days have been very difficult, every day I see people walking to their deaths, many are taken to the gas chambers and others are shot dead. Food is scarce, some are dying of hunger, I don't have long to live, if they don't kill me I'll starve to death.

I miss my life before the war, I didn't have many luxuries but I was happy. I don't have many friends here, and I don't want any either, because I know that one day everyone here will die. I discovered that one of the men I live with has actually volunteered to come here, he's a Polish spy and he wants to fight the Nazis.

Bye,

Jan

Hiroshima, 7th October, 1945

Dear Jan,

I heard about the news from Europe. I'm hoping for your survival. Here an atomic bomb from the United States was dropped on Hiroshima yesterday. I'm alive, but I'm a bit injured. The bomb devastated the city. I heard rumors of another bomb, only in Nagasaki. Many people are dead. I'm very scared, and I was in my house when it happened. When I was at home, I heard the sound of a bomb in the sky. I quickly got out of the door, took my car and sped away. After a while my consciousness returned and everything around me was destroyed. I woke up terrified and quickly went to hospital, as I was bleeding profusely. After I bandaged in my head I went to look for survivors. I want us to stay alive.

Good luck Jan, may we be lucky enough to survive and meet again.

From your friend,

Takashi.

Germany, December 18th, 1939

My dear friend Abel,

These days I was reading the newspaper, as I always do every morning, and while reading, I came across some horrible news. It's been a long time since we've seen each other. With the start of the war and all the chaos in Europe, we drifted apart, and it's been very hard for me. In recent months, my influence as a German painter has increased a lot, and I owe my achievement to you. I still remember the days we spent talking and having tea all afternoon. Our conversations inspired me to create my paintings, and it helped me a lot in my artwork. As I mentioned earlier, I saw a news article in the newspaper and learned about the news from the Jewish people. I was very worried and couldn't understand the reason for all of this. Of course, the German newspaper hides a lot of things which is why I'm sending this letter. I want to know more about what happened to the Jewish population. Jews have been suffering for a long time, but it seems to be getting worse, and I heard that separate places have started to emerge in cities where Jews are being sent. I confess I'm out of touch with the news, so I want you to send me information on how the life of the Jewish population is. My idea was actually to create a paint showing the reality of your people. The Germans change the news a lot, and honestly, I'm upset about it so I wanted to represent the truth in the form of a painting. I miss you, read this letter and help me paint my picture, like old times. And know that as soon as the war is over, we will meet again and have afternoon tea.

From your great friend,

Joseph

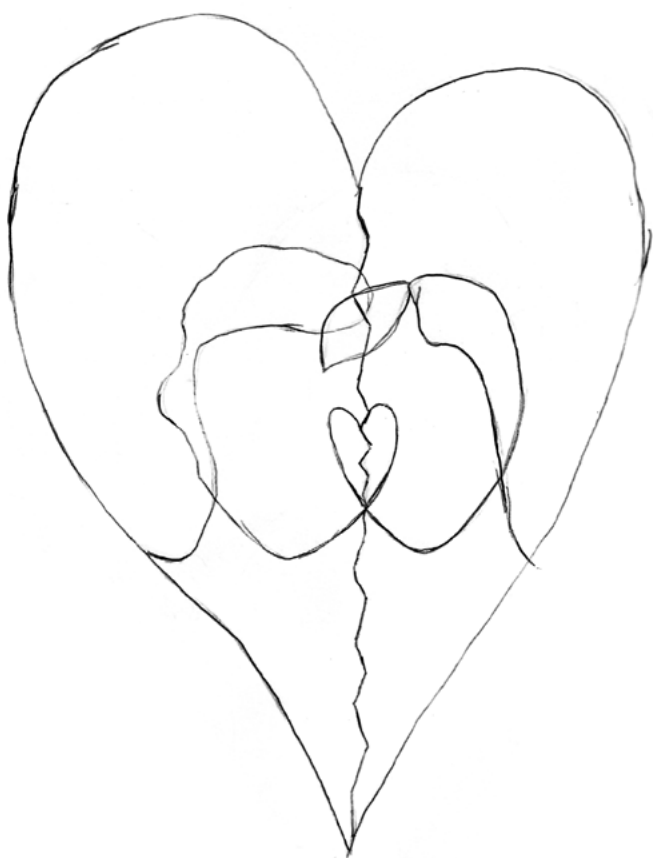
Germany, February 22th, 1940

My dear friend Joseph,

When I received your letter, I must confess that I was very happy. It has been a long time since we last spoke, and I miss our conversations, our afternoons together drinking tea, talking about painting ideas. I was also pleased to hear about your success. I haven't left my house in a long time. The Jewish people have been isolated from the outside world in recent years. I apologize for not being able to share in your success. Since you asked, my situation is very difficult. Our people do not know what to expect from the government. These days I received news that I would be sent to Poland to escape the war. I am worried about all this. I hope to return soon from there. I am confident that the war will not last long, and when it ends, we will meet again. It will be difficult to survive this war, but when we meet again, we will have the best afternoon tea, just like in the old days. I hope I have helped you, even with few details, and I hope that your art makes the Germans see the truth.

Your great friend,

Abel



Poland, March 15th, 1943

Dears Agata and Hanna,

Have you heard about Stefania? Her fiance, who was Jew, was taken by the Nazi to a ghetto. Stefania stayed because she is Catholic. After some time, the brother of her fiance, Max, appeared at her door saying that he jumped from the train! Now he is living with 12 more Jews!

Recently, I've heard that the Nazis are going to let their nurses in her house. That's really frightening, like, there are Nazi and Jews in the same building, it's a matter of time for them to find the Jews. Besides all this, Stefania still has to take care of her little sister. Isn't that crazy?

I'm looking forward to hear from you,

Filip

Poland, April 17th, 1943

Dear Filip

Thank you for your letter, me and Hanna are sorry to hear that. Here things are very chaotic too, Allie and Noah are two young people who discovered the real meaning of love. They wanted to be a couple, but their parents didn't allow it.

Noah was sent to war and Allie was very sad, it seemed to be the end of love, so she started dating another man, and they are getting married, but now Noah is coming back. We think Allie will refuse to marry the other man to stay with Noah. What do you think about that? This is so thrilling that it could really turn into a movie. We're so excited to know the end of this story!!

With love,

Agata and Hanna

Poland, July 15th, 1942

Dear Matheus Bochenec,

I'm living in Auschwitz and the situation here is very bad. A lot of people die every day, and my work is the worst job in the camp. Sonderkkommando, that name terrifies me, this is the name they give to me and everyone else who does this work, I have to remove the dead bodies of the gas chamber and take everything that is of value from the bodies who left the chamber, after that I put the body in the crematorium, the smell is horrible and reaches the entire field. The nights are very difficult, I can't sleep, I'm in a very cramped accommodation and with me there are more than sixty smelly and terrified men. My best friend gave up on this job and died with shots one month ago. It was very sad for everyone, because besides being an incredible man, he kept me happy with his jokes and advice.

Children, elderly, sick people suffer with not enough food, bad beds and rooms, without a bath and all of that happens to me, it's horrible. My routine it's so exhaustive, I wake up at 6:00 a.m and have to work from 7:00 a.m with one break to eat and go to the bathroom to 8:00 p.m, then I go to my room and sleep, the bed is horrible and the noise is unbearable. I'm unmotivated to live. Everyone in the concentration camp can no longer take this life of pain and suffering. I hope you receive this letter and be able to respond. How is your situation?

Yours sincerely,

Fernando Goldberg

Poland, August 5th, 1942

To Fernando Goldberg

These times are very difficult too. Luckily, I managed to escape from a concentration camp but it is very difficult because there are many guards on watch and if I were seen, I would certainly die. Even escaping, I was unable to succeed because I don't have access to food and every night I get very scared. Even though I see a soldier very far away from me, I want to go to him and ask for food and shelter. Yesterday, there was a battle by my side and I was almost discovered, an angry soldier passed very close to me with a rifle and I was very desperate at the time, I was hiding inside a shell hole covered by some mud, I only managed to escape this because the same soldier was called by his general before checking the hole.

But your situation is much more worrying than mine, I can't imagine what it's like to carry a dead body and even more to loot it, it must be the worst feeling in the world, but don't give up, keep working in this terrible place with terrible conditions and very little food because I know that you are a very strong man and that you don't give up on anything, and after that we will get out of this together.

You are very important to me and to your family. It's not now that you're going to leave everything behind and surrender because from the first day I saw you, I realized that you were a good man. Take care of your life and we will continue to resist these terrible times and when this is over, we will come together and celebrate our victory.

Regards,

Matheus Bochenec

Japan, May 14th, 1940

My dear friend,

How are you Daniel? It's been a while since I wrote you a letter, but I think it's important to tell you about my situation living here in Tokyo. Now that this war has started I'm afraid that something bad will happen to me and my acquaintances. There are rumors that America is leading a project to develop a weapon of gigantic proportions, I hope this is just a rumor, I don't wanna see innocent lives suffering due to war. Things are getting worse, Germany is moving forward with research and more stuff related to science, anyways, I hope you are well in America. If something happens, I certainly will inform you urgently, my friend. And how about the situation in your country, are you okay in your new city? Are you economically stable and happy with your family in Washington? Well, I'm pretty sure that you are, because you are such a good man, Daniel, please stay safe!

With love,

Alexander D.

Washington, October 23, 1940

Dear Alexander,

Greetings my friend! It's been such a while since we haven't spoken, I'm happy that you remembered me and wrote that amiable letter. The things here in Washington are very good and me and my family are fortunately ok. Here in America, military research is really confidential. I can't confirm if those rumors are true, maybe that horrific weapon of gigantic proportions rumors are fake. The Germans really are improving everything in their country, they have risen from the ashes and now their plans and economy is going strong! For now, everything is calm and stable, I wish we could go to the cinema and watch the new Charles Chaplin movie! He's such a good actor. Anyways, thanks Daniel for the kind words, I'm praying for you to be ok in Japan, my dear friend!

With pleasure,

Daniel J.

Norway, 19th January 1944

Dear Carlo,

How are you doing? Have you already arrived in Auschwitz? Unfortunately, we couldn't escape from the Nazis. I was sent to the Grini concentration camp, in Norway. I made some friends, but our conditions are very precarious here.

I heard that 11 Norwegians destroyed a Nazi base with 3000 men inside, that's crazy! I heard it because there is a spy in here, and he's giving information to the Jews in the concentration camp. What do you think about it? For me it's really great, we are showing our strength for the Nazis, and I'm sure that we are going to win this war.

I was remembering our moments Carlo, you know, like before the war. I miss our friends' moments, and I would like to hear your jokes at this moment. We were happy and we didn't even know. I hope we can survive, and I really hope you are reading this letter at some point. I miss you very much.

Felipe

Poland, 29th February, 1944

Dear Felipe,

I'm good and you? I have already arrived at Auschwitz. The conditions here are bad too, but I'm making friends here as well, even though many of them are being killed by Nazis. I really hope that the Nazis pay for what they are doing. We are going to win this war and the Nazis will pay, I'm sure about that.

About the mission you said, that was great! Because it could prevent some Nazis missions in that base. And I think the Allies will win this war. Today, I'm going to see my son. He is on the other side of the concentration camp. I'm very excited to see him for the last time. You really would like to meet him. I was remembering our moments too, I remembered the day we were making a snow fight.

Thank you for sending me a letter. I miss you very much too, but I'm going to be killed by the Nazis.

Thank you for everything,

Carlo

Poland, Auschwitz, January 14th 1943

Dear Adam,

I'm at the Birkenau camp in Auschwitz waiting for this to end soon, I'm very weak I don't know if I can last long here, the days go by very slowly, typhus is spreading more and more every day, my mother and sister are gone, I haven't heard from my father, but the sources indicate that he is better than me, despite everything, I have a little hope. Food is scarce, many people die of hunger. I miss you every day, I want to find you again, it was great to have met you, maybe in other lives, if you believe me, I will never forget the moment when my eyes met yours, I can't think of words to describe how cruel and unfair this war is, innocent people die every day, but who knows, could the imminent death be better than reality? I'm not afraid of the pain and you know it, just worry about getting well, don't worry about me.

You tattooed a piece of my story on my skin, marked my heart. Until one day, my eternal passion.

With love,

Abigail

Poland, Auschwitz, February 22th 1943

Dear Abigail,

I prayed that you were alive. This letter took a long time to reach me, even living in the same camp as you, we can't see each other. I regret the loss of your mother and sister, and I believe your father is well. About the typhus, I really don't know what to do, but I believe this is about to end, I really want to see you again, I hope to have a life full of happiness with you, it is agonizing to have to see you suffer and have the least hope, just hearing about you my heart cannot contain emotion, much less pain, I see people losing their lives every day when I tattoo them, the eyes of 13 and 14 year old girls and boys are full of despair. Continue being that brave, strong woman that you are, if the pain doesn't reach you, it hits me like a knife penetrating my neck, you are my love and you always will be, not even if it's meant to be in other lives.

I expect a response from you, I love you forever.

Fondly,

Adam.

Germany, September 22th, 1942.

Dear Hannah,

I wish we hadn't separated, like you told me: I'm going to a quieter place. Here in the concentration camp is very disturbed and very bad. The SS are very evil and serious, if something wrong happens, they have no mercy leaving someone alive. I'm terrified and very scared. Here in our free time after working like slaves, we take clandestine art classes, because education is prohibited for Jews. Deep in my heart, I hope that this peaceful place you said you would go to is still intact. I miss you and without you it gets more difficult, but it's good that you're not here, you're not suffering so much. Now I'm going to have to stop writing or they'll catch me and take me to the extermination camp. I hope this letter reaches you and that you can respond to me.

With love,

Emma.

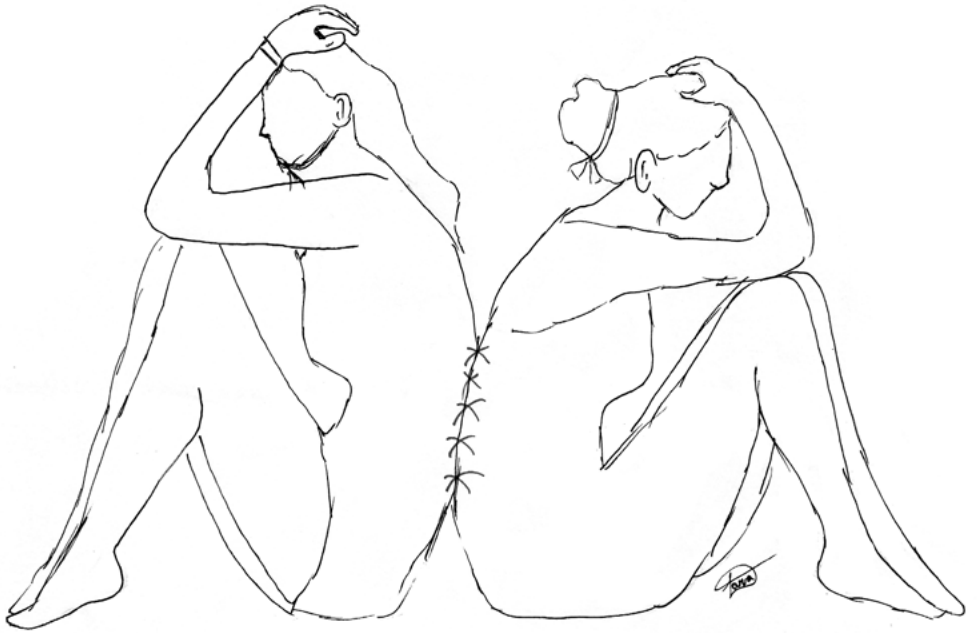
Italy, February 16th, 1943

Dear Emma,

Here in the hiding place it's cramped, dirty and stuffy, and I always have to be careful so the Nazis don't find me. I haven't seen mom and dad in a while, I'm staying with my older brother at the shelter. Please, always respect the orders of the SS to stay alive, my brother told me that they exterminate the disobedient. We are eating some canned and expired food because it's the only thing we have. Every now and then my brother manages to get some food. In my free time I have been reading a lot, last month I read 19 books. I also draw with pencils and watercolors and teach my stuffed animals, just as my brother is teaching me things he has already learned. I hope this all ends soon, I miss our conversations, walks and games. Don't forget to be careful, they are very dangerous. It's better not to respond to this letter, it's very risky.

With love,

Hannah



Oswiecim, October 22th, 1940

My best friend, Samuel,

I miss you so much, my father forbade me to leave the house and go to the yard. I wanted him to understand that I want to be an explorer and that I need to see new places, and he doesn't understand that. I wanted to be there with you talking about our lives, making jokes. Big and strong men keep coming into the house, I'm scared of them, my sister is in love with a soldier from my father's work, I think that's disgusting, she threw away all the dolls and put some posters of soldiers in her room, I found her dolls in the basement when I went to get my ball, I was scared. My mother is very worried, I catch her crying every day, her face is white and the worst thing is that she keeps fighting with my father all the time, I don't understand what's happening to them.

Around here there is a smell that bothers me a lot. The smell seems to come from black smoke, but I'm not sure. I tried to get on the swing to see but I ended up falling, I think the smell comes from there, what do you think?

I can't wait until tomorrow, I'm going to cross the fence and be with you, I hope my parents don't find out, but even if they do, they can't forbid me from meeting you behind the fence, they've already banned me from seeing you, but I don't care, because you're my best friend until the end of my life, my dear friend. See you the day after tomorrow!!!!

With love,

Breno

Oswiecim, October 23th, 1940

My friend, Breno,

I miss you too, I really want to see you, here at the camp there is also a horrible smell, it probably comes from here, as you and I can feel it. It's getting worse and worse here, there are a lot of people feeling sick, I saw a lot of people dying today, the majority were elderly and children. The work is very difficult, they demand more and more from me, and the hunger is getting worse. I didn't eat almost anything, so can you bring me more food? As much as you can.

I'm really looking forward for tomorrow, you'll see how I live here and on top of that you'll find my father with me, I'm dying to introduce you to him, I don't think he's like yours, he works here, but I haven't seen him in a while, I think he got lost. I still don't understand why we can't be friends, but it's because your father forbade you to see me.

I'm going to go over the plan for tomorrow just to make sure everything is understood between us. First, you bring me some food, then I'll give you the clothes, you get dressed, dig a hole with the shovel you're going to bring, and that's it. Let's be together and look for my father. I hope your family doesn't notice that you've been missing for a while, because if they do, they'll run after you and realize you're here and they'll end up punishing me for that, I think. It's going to be worse than last time. I'm really looking forward to tomorrow! See you tomorrow!!

With love,

Samuel

Germany, September 1st, 1944.

Dear Klaus, my soldier,

They broke into the house and luckily they didn't find me. I'm desperate in such fear because this invasion almost cost my son. I felt one of the greatest pains of my life, only compared to the pain of you being away from me.

I look forward to your return and I hope everything is fine. I want you to see him, see how much he is like you, and please, darling, bring groceries because they are almost running out. I need things for the baby, diapers, bottles, milk, things like that.

I really never thought I would go through this kind of thing because I am Jewish, this is not a human thing and I don't want something like this for our baby, we need to escape, Klaus, to a place where neither you nor I need to hide.

I love you so much, never forget that my king.

With love,

Your Ruth and your son.

Germany, September 13th, 1944

Dear Ruth,

I miss you. I really want to meet our son, I'm so sorry I'm not with you right now, but we have to hope that this terror will pass soon. Please don't leave home, stay hidden, I'll try to visit you next weekend. I'll bring you supplies. Here in Auschwitz everything is horrible, people dying all the time, starving, separated from family members, being torture and shot. I hate that, I hate Hitler, I wanted to run away with you and our son, but the world is at war. People don't deserve this! Yesterday, I saw a mother being separated from her baby to work and an old lady went to her death with the child, that's why I want you to stay hidden, because when this is all over we're going to move to a beautiful and calm place to raise our son, I love you so much my queen.

With love,

Your Klaus.

Cracóvia, June 9th, 1941

Dear Jane,

Since our last conversation in the concentration camp, before I came to this ghetto, I would miss you in my days. I can say that my life has changed a little, these days feeling your absence, I met a boy who brought part of my shine again. He is a tall Jew, dark, curly hair and green eyes, in addition to his pink cheeks even with the gray tones of the current day over him. Yes, friend, we can say that I'm very in love, when I have no more hope he calms me down and tells me not to lose it. His name is David, he told me about his past, he had a brother, but unfortunately the Nazis killed him. My days here are being very tense, I would like to spend these moments by your side. And I'm sending you this letter, because I believe that my time here is short, and soon I will leave, but I want you to know that during these months of so much unhappiness you were my refuge.

With a lot of love,

Lia.

Cracóvia, December 10th, 1945

Dear Lia,

Today, here in front of your grave, I miss you like I've never felt before because I won't deny that all this suffering really hurts for I really had hoped that all this would pass.

The moment I received your letter my smile was instantaneous and uncontrollable, I felt motivated to continue enduring everything in Auschwitz, as I read it I felt very relieved that you had found a light in the midst of so much darkness, I had never seen you so in love with someone like Adam when we were 5 years old, before all this, but it seems that David surpassed that and made you happy until the last moment of your life. I wish I could hug you and tell him to take good care of you, but the emptiness I'm feeling in my chest right now is bigger than anything, every moment with you was special.

Rest in peace my dear Lia.

With much pain and love,

Jane.

Der Tod eines geliebten Menschen hinterlässt
ein Loch der sehnsucht in
deiner Brust



February 14th, 1942

Dear Ezequiel,

Hello! It's been quite a while since we've met in that hotel in Palestine. I recently became aware that multiple people in this region got imprisoned in concentration camps, so I got worried and decided to write you a letter to maybe cheer you up a little.

I researched some hilarious facts about the Nazis, and I would like to share some with you! Say, did you know that Hitler has been fighting the war with only one "family jewel"? Not only that, but it's said that his "member" is severely deformed, and the rest of the Nazi leaders share this quality with him! Because of these rumors, the British even composed a song, called "Hitler Has Only Got One Ball". The "Arian race" sure doesn't seem that superior after that, right?

Secondly, Hitler has a nephew, William Patrick Hitler. The relationship between the two only got worse with the war, as William, as a British citizen, began to blackmail his half-uncle, threatening to sell embarrassing family stories to the newspapers. One of the threats involves telling the press that Adolf's alleged grandfather was a Jewish merchant.

Well, the facts I researched sadly end here. I hope I was able to cheer you up a little, as these are some very hard times you are going through. And remember: never give up!

Best regards,

Caleb

September, 17th, 1942

Hey there, Caleb

Thank you for your letter! It certainly kept my hopes up for the first few weeks here in the concentration camp, and it also brought a smile to the faces of my roommates! Considering what you were writing about, I particularly enjoyed your attempts at making the letter more appropriate. Hitler's questionable 'masculinity' has been the main joke here since your letter arrived.

I don't know what's happening beyond the walls of the concentration camp, and I can't think of a way your letter arrived here! But, life's been very harsh on me, as every day seems to be as boring and painful as the previous one. Nothing seems to make me forget the cold, the hunger, and the weakness I feel right now.

The place is disgusting, every room smells like vomit, and the bathroom is like rotting corpses. Despite the rough environment, we still try to use our time wisely, as we often get together to play games and read books clandestinely.

I don't know if this letter will get to you, but, if it does, I want to say that I'm looking forward to meeting you again after this horrible war ends.

Best wishes,

Ezequiel

Germany, August 22th, 1942

Dear Ariel,

I hope this letter finds you as well as possible, given the terrible place you find yourself in. I want to tell you about your daughter, such a courageous child, who is facing the horrors of this terrible place with a bravery that leaves me speechless. Despite her age, Raquel has a strength and determination that I have never seen before. She found a place of refuge here, among us, a fragile and precious hiding place of the chaos. I can't imagine the pain she carries not having her mother here and I don't know how long we can keep her hidden, or if we can ever take her away from here. The Nazis are entering every house looking for Jews, and they come out of nowhere, breaking down the door full of weapons, saying: keep looking for Jews! Despite this, Raquel remains hopeful.

Ariel, as long as she is with me, I will do everything to protect her. I promise you, I will take care of Raquel as if she were my own daughter. Even if it means risking my own life! Stay strong, my friend. Just know that you are not alone in this battle.

Miss you,

Lena.

Poland, December 26th, 1942

Dear Lena,

Thanks for the letter, it took a while to arrive but I'm very grateful that you are paying all this attention to my daughter. I'm very grateful to have a friend like you, who I can trust to take care of my daughter.

The situation is very difficult here in Auschwitz. It was a total terror all the time, from the moment I left home until now. There are loads of Jews in here. We came in animal carriages completely packed and with many people with viruses and diseases, we went the entire journey standing. But we have to be grateful, for getting here well. It was quite horrible when I arrived here. There were many thin and sick children and elderly people and many dead too. This place stinks of burning. The situation of everyone here is horrifying and sad.

I hope the war ends soon and that Germany loses and all this horror ends.

Bye my dear friend, I miss you too!

Ariel.

Italy, April 18th, 1944

Dear Lis,

How is your life? You are missed and you can't believe what happened here! Our friend Isaac ended up getting sick, and Abel, our tattoo artist, took care of him, but suddenly Abel disappeared without any explanation, and Isaac took over his post and started working for the SS, and now we are no longer tattooed with metal stamps. So Isaac told me that he fell in love with the girl who had a tattoo with the number 34902. From his SS sources he discovered that her name was Ayla, and she was in the Birkenau camp, in addition he smuggled letters and food to her, and by insisting so much, managed to move to her area, I don't know how the SS accepted that! A few days later, I received news that Isaac and Ayla had met crossing a street, and they invited us to their wedding, which will be at the beginning of the next year, so that we can finally meet up after the getaway.

With love,

Eva!

France, June 27th 1944

Dear Eva,

After we left Auschwitz, my life became much calmer. I started selling sweets. They are delicious. You need to try them. What a shame that Abel disappeared, he was loved. I always knew that Isaac would leave there in love (he's just like him), but this story is very moving and he also told me that he waited weeks at the train station just to go to Ayla's city, and that's how they ended up crossing the street!

I'm glad that they invited us to the wedding, we're gonna have a lot of fun and I'm excited to see you again and be up to date with the news! Also it's good that they put an end to the tattoos, the metal stamp burned a lot! I was very happy to receive news from you.

See you soon,

Lis!

Netherlands, 12th of June, 1944

Dear Anna,

You won't believe what I discovered, I'm right next to you!!! Some girls in my room told me that your family is in the concentration camp next to mine. I'm so happy that we are so close! Today I discovered that June 12th is your fifteenth birthday, it's such a special moment for you, and we are living in this terrible place. I wish we were celebrating together like we used to... Remember when we went to kindergarten together? I will never forget the jokes we used to do. And the days that we went to your dad's office and played all day? It was a good time, I wish we could play just one more time. Are you hungry? These days that I've been here are not that easy, we barely get food. Are you still thinking about traveling the world? I promise that when we leave I will go with you, we can go to places we can't even imagine. I don't know if my parents are still here, I miss them so much. I like to think that you and I will leave this place alive and live the rest of our lives together

With love, Amanda

Netherlands, 13th of June, 1944

Dear Amanda,

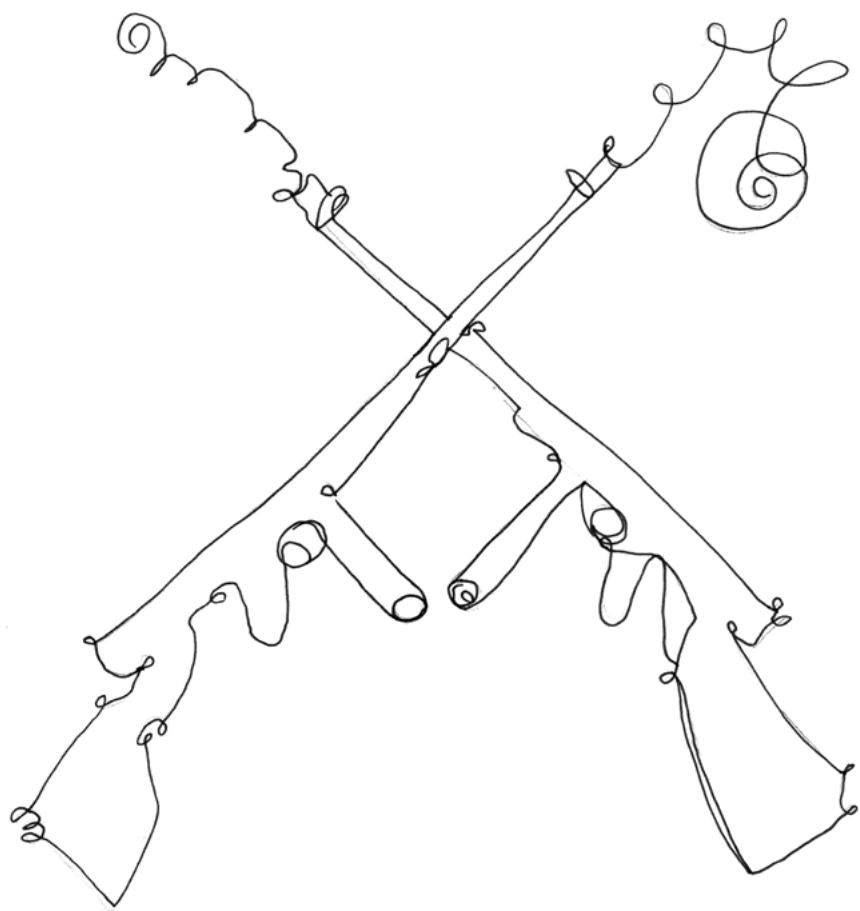
This is the best news I could get in the past few days. Well, happy birthday to me. My present is you being alive. I know if we could we would be celebrating like we always did. I don't even know how my family is, you are the only certainty I have in my life. If you looked at me now, you wouldn't recognize me, I haven't had anything to eat in the past few weeks.

My friend Kitty helped me a lot when I was hidden, I wrote to her stories, and all of my secrets. Do you remember our Maastricht trip? When we jumped in the river and it was so cold that we almost got frozen?! I miss you unconditionally, I really hope you're fine.

They're sending me to death, it's probably over for me but not for you, Amanda. Do this for me. Talk for me, breathe for me, run for me, eat my mom's muffins for me, paint your nails for me, laugh loud for me, and then the most important, travel for me, discover the whole world for me.

Your dear friend,

Anna



Lubang Island, Philippines, March 10th 1974

Dear Helena,

Recently, a Japanese soldier who lived nearby has emigrated to Brazil. I think he went to Mato Grosso do Sul, where you live. I might sound too concerned, but I swear this guy's done some crazy things. While the war happened, he was told his mission was to stay alive, so he did as told and hid in a cave on the Lubang Island for 29 years! His name is Oroo Hiroda, and he used to steal food from the residents who lived near his cave. He was credulous the war wasn't over yet, even when people corrected him that it was.

A friend of mine said that he even killed some people, I don't remember the exact number... maybe over thirty? This sent a shiver down my spine, I felt horrified hearing that. I guess 29 years of social isolation really drives you crazy. I was even more surprised when I discovered that the president forgave him for this.

Anyways, I hope he has become a better person now that he's married to that woman from Tokyo. I also hope you're doing fine, we don't see each other for so long! Please answer this as soon as you receive the letter.

With love,

Kian.

Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, April 25th, 1974

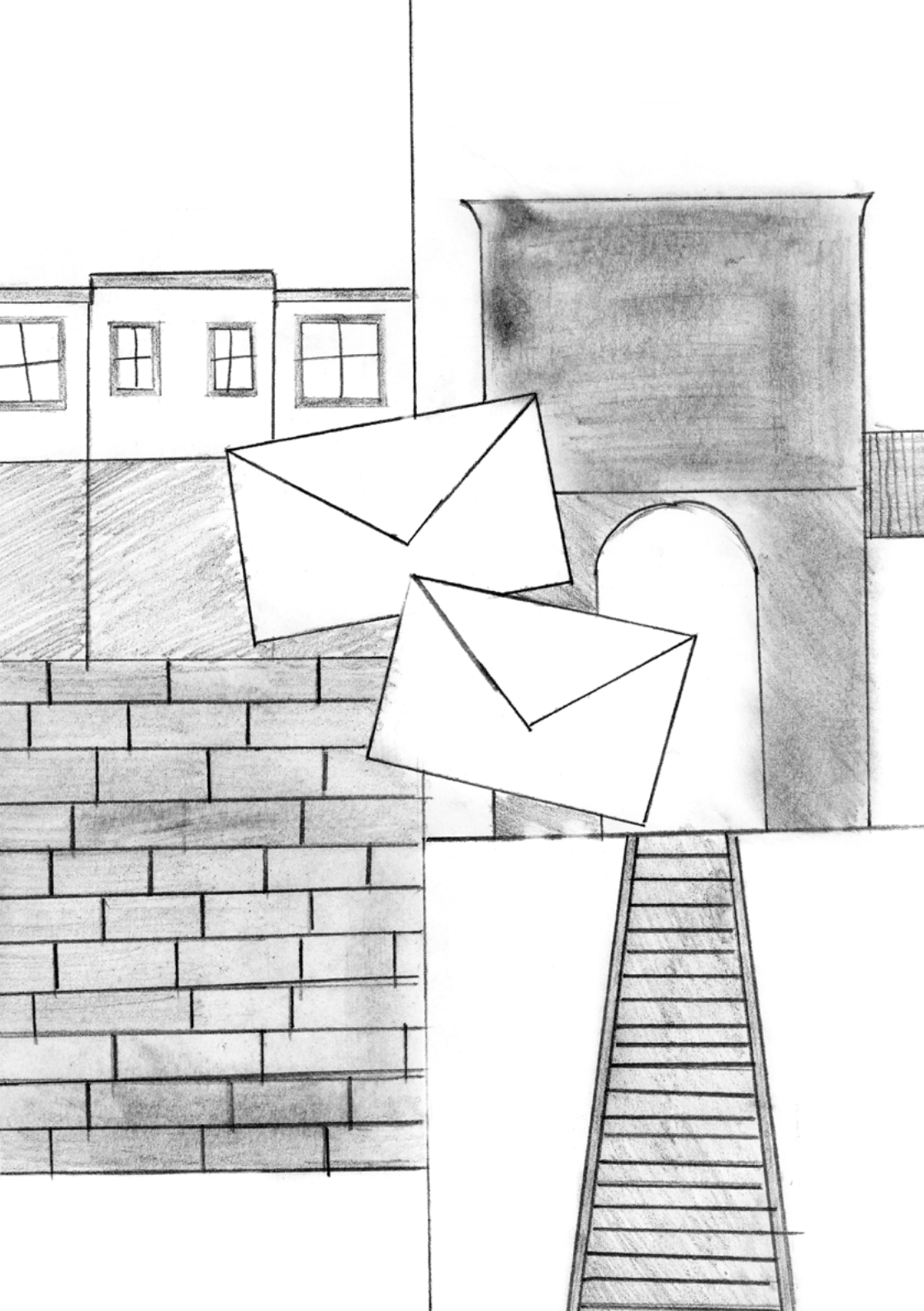
My dear friend Kian,

How 's it going? Wow! This is such a surprise! It seems like Mr. Hiroda is a farmer who started living near my farm! He moved here with his wife to work on their own cattle ranch. I didn't try talking to them, but my grandmother did. They told her that Japan was getting too influenced by the western culture (which they thought was unfortunate) so Hiroda and his wife came to Brazil's rural side in hopes to get back to what they were used to. I don't think grandma knew he was a soldier, though.

It's crazy that he managed to survive on his own at the island, the military trainment must have really been tough. Discovering that he even killed people was a surprise to me... I guess it was just part of his job, but I can't help feeling a little scared of him for that, but since it was a war, I guess it's understandable. I've heard that he wrote a book, maybe that's what it is about, I want to read it... Hope you're doing alright.

With love,

Helena



Wars w, October 13rd, 1941

Dear Mayla,

It's been a while since we got separated, a lot of things have happened since we came. On the train my mom got ill, I was worried about her but when we arrived a doctor analyzed her health and then she went somewhere else. I don't know where my mom is, however I hope she is back before my 12th birthday. You didn't forget, did you? It is October 17th.

Anyway, I was directed to do work for them, I didn't get any rewards but I made a new friend with the same age as me, but no one is like you! Anxiously waiting for our meeting! How are you? I am worried about you too! The food here it's not good, some days we don't even have something to eat. I am waiting for your letter!

With love,

Verona

Wars w, October 27th, 1941

Dear Verona,

Everyday I miss you and think about you, I wish I could have spent your birthday with you, how could I forget? I hope you find your mother again and I hope she is well. I really like your mom, she is as sweet as you! Miss her too! I remember you everytime.

I'm glad you made new friends and don't feel so bad. Here we have rooms in good condition but very crowded, and I haven't had to do any work yet. However things aren't that bad and I'm fine. I didn't make new friends but I'm always with my mother, and she always asks about you! The food here is good but is also so little but we share it. I hope we meet soon!

Kisses,

Mayla

United States, February 3rd, 1945

Dear Arthur Morgan,

As I sit in the lab, I'm surprised and a little excited by the greatness that our project carries on our shoulders. Everyday, we have new challenges. Our efforts are getting us closer and closer to finding out the secrets of atomic energy.

Although, with every little bit of progress, I think even more about the problems that our work might cause in the world. The power of our project has the potential to change history forever, for better, or, worse. It's a responsibility that we can't take lightly, knowing the impact our discoveries may have in the future.

Everytime I do something related to the project I can't help thinking that behind the experiments and choices, there are lives affected by our actions. It feels like a reminder of the importance of our ethical obligations that must guide our actions. Anyways, how have you been? Are there any updates on your life recently? I've been nervous due to the project, but I have been fine!

With love,

Apollo Jr.

United States, February 20th, 1945

Dear Apollo Jr,

Hey, I'm just letting you know that I have received your letter. I am truly surprised by the project, Mr Oppenheimer and the Colonel. I am very happy with the development of the United States. You guys are both working well to improve all the lives of Americans.

In 1938, my life was normal and was going well, my job was great, I had a family which I can no longer see... Sometimes, I miss that time when my job was not to create a bomb with a high destructive capacity. I feel that humanity has become its own destroyer of worlds, just like the apocalypse...

Now, answering your question about how I am, I'm fine. Recently the physics work has been tiring me a lot, though my life is running smoothly without many highlights. After we are finally done with this project, I don't want anything other than to have a peaceful life.

With love,

Arthur Morgan

Poland, April 18th, 1945

Dear Lexie,

I am sending you this letter as a way of showing how much I miss our happy times together. I was in the Lublin ghetto, with around 34.000 Jews. I was desperate when they sent many of us to the Belzec extermination camp, where they killed around 1.400 Jews a day, some time ago I heard in the corridors that they wanted to exterminate the ghetto, the German authorities were employing slave labor to then demolish and dismantle the area. Therefore they would be able to eliminate centuries of Jewish culture and society in Lublin. Some of us, including myself, managed to escape the eradication and reach the Warsaw ghetto, and the news of destruction only got worse. Jews in Warsaw have been convinced that the intention of the Germans was, in fact, to exterminate the entire Jewish population in Poland. I hope this letter reaches your hands, and that you are somehow safe. If you receive this letter please send me a reply!

With love,

Martha

Russia, July 22th, 1945

My dear Martha,

I was so happy to receive your letter, I'm glad I managed to get out of the Lublin ghetto before the worst happened. Here the situation is also quite complicated, they are deporting as many Jews as they can, of the 68.000 only 15.000 workers and their families were allowed to stay. Everyone else was expelled from the city and relocated to neighboring rural regions. I am very grateful to have stayed, but I feel anxious, wondering when it will be my turn, but deep down I have a hope that it will never arrive.

The ghetto was surrounded by walls that separated people from the rest of the city. All the doors and windows that gave access to the side were closed with bricks, leaving only four entrances that were heavily guarded. The other 15.000 Jews and I still in the ghetto were crammed into an area that previously housed 3.000 people. I just want to wake up and see that this is all a nightmare, with each passing day hope diminishes, I just want this to end soon. If you ever send me a letter and I don't answer you, know that you were one of the reasons why I tried to survive until my last breath.

Much love,

Lexie

France, September 8th, 1943.

Dear Anninka,

It's been a while since the last time I wrote, and, as opposed to a month ago, I don't feel really hopeful about all this. Lots of girls from my accommodation have already been transferred to other "camps", and my gut says I'm next. Remember we were worried about the average of 5.000 deaths per day? Here in Natzweiler, it went up to 6.000 deaths in some weeks. We have four new diseases and I got cholera two weeks ago. Thankfully, I'm much better now. Our dear friend has just died and me and the girls are devastated. It's pure hell here. Acquaintances dying, innocent kids dying! Sometimes I just wish it all ended, right here, right now. Is paradise waiting for us? I'm sorry about my complaints, I just wanted to tell you that I lay in bed and ask God you'll be fine. You make me want to wait a moment longer here. Please, tell me you're fine!

With love,

Amélie A.G.

Poland, November 21th, 1943.

Dear Amélie,

Things at Auschwitz are fine for now, but the amount of food we receive is decreasing each day that passes and there are not enough clothes. Winter is coming and I heard that next month will be colder than the last 2 years, can you imagine?! It's quite cold here but tonight, my roommates and I gathered in the center of the room and slept together to make it less painful. I don't like it very much here, but I always think it's better to live here than to be cremated alive. Hang in there Amelie, we'll be together soon, safe and far away from here.

Is your family okay? How about your brothers? I miss you so much and I hope we see each other again soon. I wish to receive more letters from you in a shorter period of time. I really think that this war is gonna end in a few months and we're gonna be happy again.

With love,

Anninka A.G.

Poland, September 11th, 1941

Dear Karoline,

Here in the lodge, things are going pretty well. I'm learning kung fu and other martial arts, such as karate and judo. I've made a lot of friends, for example, Derrick, an elite American soldier, who was brought here because he killed an entire Nazi platoon. And there's Al-Shaed, a guy from the United Arab Emirates, who tried to kill himself by exploding a grenade inside of a Japan's army truck.

You'll probably never read this letter, because L742's guards aren't letting men pass the lodge to L748. But if you receive this, it means that I managed to escape. Now, with no more messing around, I want to tell you something. Since we met, about 3 years ago, in Athens, before the war and everything started, I have loved you so much, Karoline, I want to spend the rest of my life with you. We'll probably die soon, so I want to be with you as much time as possible, that would be nice. Also I would like to confess before you discover, my name isn't Jicold and I'm not Jewish.

Actually, I'm the famous British silent film actor, Charlie Chaplin. I'm only here in Auschwitz because my mustache is way more beautiful and well-taken-care-of than Hitler's, so he is jealous and furious about it. But since I'm rich and famous, the guards are doing and giving me everything I want, so I'll try my best to bring you with me as soon as possible.

With love,

Jicold(Charlie Chaplin)

Poland, September 15th, 1941

Dear Jicold,

I'm so happy that you wrote me a letter and said that you love me! I love you, too! I don't know if I'll survive, but at least, you will know that I really loved you.

The lodge is full of good women, and they're very funny, but not as entertaining as the guys in your lodge. Except for Kyle, a captain of the American special forces, she and her platoon were arrested for destroying an Italian naval base. We don't have so much time to escape, because I heard the guards saying that the girls from the lodges L748 and L753 are going to the gas chambers in one week. You need to be fast. I'm doing everything possible to escape, in case this rumor gossip is true! If you can, please save me, I don't want to die.

P.S.: Hitler can do everything to have the prettiest mustache, but yours will always be the best.

With love,

Karoline

Germany, August 29th, 1941

Dear Joe,

The Warsaw ghetto isn't that bad. We receive food 2 times a day but some situations happen here, the girls usually say we are ugly and stuff like that. I think I am in love with a girl but I'm not sure. Maybe I will go talk to her today. She works at the restaurant and at the main school, she is the biology teacher and sometimes she also teaches history but all this scenario doesn't help with my love story.

All of the destruction and deaths make everyone feel bad and guilty but I think this isn't the main issue, talking about won't make it better. I almost forgot to say that I am so bored here, I already tried to play with the children although the only thing that makes me wake up is to see her. If I have the courage, I will go talk to her and tell you what happened.

With love,

Tim

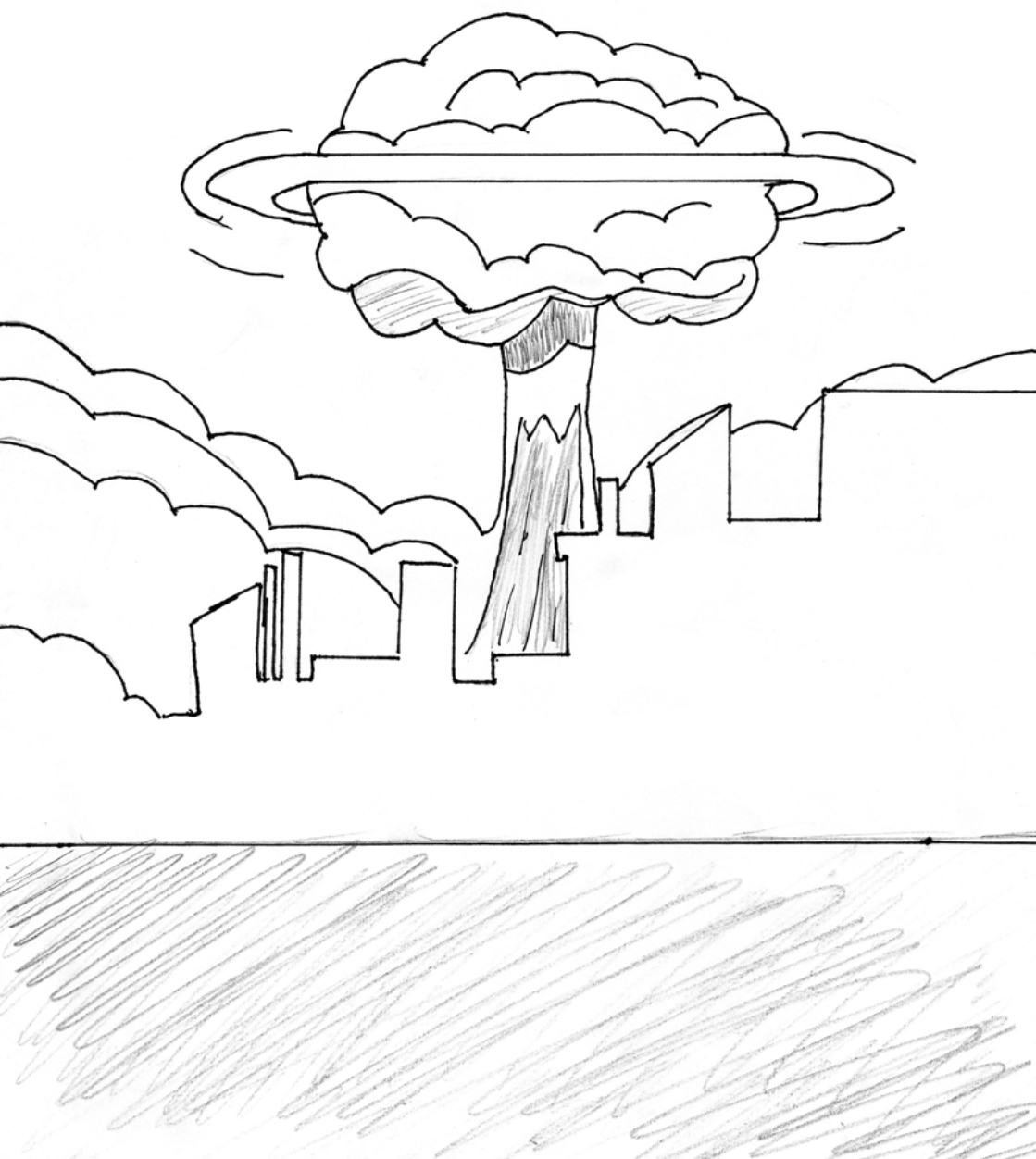
Germany, September 21th, 1941

Dear Tim,

I am so relieved that you are okay, here in the east part of the ghetto we eat 3 times a day and have some extra activities. You should talk to the girl and tell her about your feelings, holding it back won't make you better and can you imagine if she feels the same for you? About all this situation I think the end of the war would be like a dream and after all that, we could finally eat something. I heard rumors that the war is gonna take a while but everything will be fine and we'll meet again. I hope we can talk again but our play here is about to end so I may take longer to reply, and another reminder you should make something to entertain yourself; being bored is not cool, reply as fast as you can!

With Love,

Joe



Poland, November 13th, 1943.

For whoever finds this,

Since the beginning, in this camp, I have been through terrible things, but that only increased my determination to escape. With difficulty, I managed it. Inside this game box you are receiving, there is information about the camp that may be useful.

Around 2 a.m. on Saturdays, the SS celebrate, drinking and relaxing, which lowers the surveillance. As the SS wing is to the east, the northwest is unprotected. Additionally, there is a rope hidden under the floor of dormitory M-280. At 3:30 a.m. I quietly got the hidden rope and proceeded to the northwest section of the camp, where the SS soldiers don't typically pay much attention. I held the rope and silently scaled the wall. Fortunately, I had a map that I received from the Red Cross that you can find inside the same game box that you obtained, so I decided to leave it in this camp for other people to have the chance to escape.

I hope you have the same luck as I did,

From an unknown sender.

Majdanek, February 4th, 1944

Dear unknown sender,

When I opened the game, I was surprised to see the map and your letter. I was excited to know that I still had a chance to escape with your tips.

It's been about a week since I received your letter, and since then, I have gathered the courage to try to escape. Yesterday, I attempted to put the plan into action, following everything meticulously and being very cautious, but unfortunately, I am not outside the camp.

I am writing this letter in a waiting room about to be sent to the East. I don't blame you for this, and I am very grateful for your help, but it was my mistake not to have thought that things could change in a few months, and that's what happened. Just on the planned day, the guards from the ghetto went to celebrate, but it lasted less than planned because their boss stopped everything and they had to go back to watch the camp. As a result, one of the SS saw me climbing the wall and shot my leg, causing me to fall. They beat me, and luckily they didn't kill me right there. My death is near, but I am grateful for everything you sent.

I hope you can see Hitler's defeat.

Marcin Nowak

Portsmouth, September 8th, 1940

Dear Finn,

Are you ok? I am not ok, it's been two months since the Germans have been bombing my city's port. Since then, I have been hiding in a bunker, and I have seen clashes between the British and the Germans from both sides. There are metallic planes with machine guns and huge bombs. It looks like this battle is going far, and now it is increasingly difficult to get food because of the bombing in the ports. I think the British are almost beating the Germans with their fighter planes. Let me know if there is any conflict occurring in Dublin. From what I heard, an American ship will arrive tomorrow, bringing food and other basic resources. Here in the bunker where I am hiding, there are three more people who are also waiting for this shipment. I know that in Ireland there are not many wars. I hope that when this letter arrives, the war will already be over. Send me a letter when you can. See you later, I hope.

Your sincerely,

Noah

Dublin, January 1st, 1941

Dear Noah,

Hello Noah. Yes, I'm good, nothing happened here. I want to know if I can help you with anything, such as food or money. I'm worried about you, please continue informing me about your situation. My luck is that Ireland isn't part of the war, I think it is strange that the airplanes had bombs and machine guns. The war is so bad, people kill each other for nothing, and for the amusement of those who control this world. I hope that nothing happens to you in this time of war, sincerely I want that all nazis die. If you want, you can live here for a while until war ends, because the situation here is more simple. Additionally, if you need help, you can send another letter to me. Please survive, I need you in life, I want to celebrate my coming birthday with you and I wish we can start a new stage in life.

Your sincerely,

Finn

Poland, February 14th, 1943

Dear Robert,

Hello, are you alive? I hope so, anyway, how are the resources there? I'm asking about this because we're running out of money, and it's going to take time to get more food and other supplies. One more thing, the Nazis are going to investigate your building, I've already tried to convince them that there's no one there, and I am obviously lying because you're still there, right? Anyway, we're already looking for another building for you to hide from them, lucky for you that we are your friends, if not you would be with problems from the start, I'm not expecting anything in return, I don't know about the others, but I'm doing this because you are my best friend, and I hope you survive this war to get back to your normal day-to-day schedule. If this war ends early, I may have a chance to leave the army, because I was forced to join here. I would like to meet you in person to talk calmly, for now, nobody can find out about us or we will both die.

With love,

Your friend Jack

Poland, 28th of February, 1943

Dear Jack

I'm alive you little scoundrel, and you're still keeping the secret about me, aren't you? But jokes aside, I hope it doesn't take long because the Nazis are already searching my block and if you don't come soon, maybe they'll find me, I'll have no other option than be kidnapped, anyway, if I need money I still have a watch and some objects that could be worth something, it doesn't seem a bad idea, if the Nazis arrive and you are not here I hope you know that you were one of the best companions I had the pleasure of knowing, I hope you survive this war too, and carry our legacy to posterity, and please don't call me love.

Faithfully,

Your friend Robert

Auschwitz-Birkenau, February 11th, 1943.

Dear Amelia,

Have you heard about Kristofer and Dorothy? They are in love! They are so sweet together. Kristofer is a "tatowierer" and, since he has worked for SS, he gains extra food and he gives it to us. He's so gentle! He cares a lot about Dorothy, for example: when she got sick he made sure she would have a new job and recover as soon as possible.

I feel bad you are not in the same accommodation as me to see them together. I hope they end up together, Dorothy can't stop chatting about him. On one hand it's annoying, but on the other hand it's lovely. I think it is great they have hope in this situation. If I were in their place, I would be scared to death! Anyways, things have been tough around here. I miss my family so much, I hope they're in good hands. I'm afraid of typhus and that I, you or my family might catch it. I can't wait to see you and my family again. Miss you!

With love,

Natalia.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, February 13th, 1943

Dear Natalia,

Things haven't been so nice around here as well, but I'm happy that during this whole chaos there's still hope and love. I'm currently working as a doctor and typhus is killing a lot of people. I heard that this girl, Dorothy, got sick with this disease and got better because of her boyfriend, I guess is the same girl you told me about. While she was at the hospital I talked to her and she was fearless and sweet. If I could, I would be friends with her.

About this Kristofer guy, I remember him! I think I saw him once or twice around here. If I were Dorothy, I would be very happy and grateful to date a guy like this. Natalia, can I ask you a favor? Please keep writing about them to me, you literally made my day! Gosh, I wish I was in your accommodation to see their romance everyday and to be friends with Dorothy. Anyway, I have to go to work now. Miss you so much!

Warm regards,

Amelia.

Dachau, May 3rd, 1943.

Dear Hannah,

Today is my birthday and I really miss being able to be with you and our friends here to celebrate this day, but don't worry because I have some colleagues here who tried to brighten my day and even sang happy birthday, but without the cake because we don't have the food to make one. As time passed here I discovered that the doctors were carrying out experiments on prisoners and a few days ago they forced a colleague of mine who helped me here, to go with them and since then I haven't seen her again that is why I worry a lot about ending up being taken for these experiments too, I would say that's my biggest fear here. There aren't many good things here but I found a boy who makes me happy every day, he's from the dorm next to mine and we always see each other when they let us go to the courtyard, he's really nice to me and I think we've flirted a lot of times but the coolest thing about him is that he tries to reassure me about my fears in here and that really works. I can even say that I might be falling in love with him, but we just met so I'm still slowly getting closer to him.

With love,

Leonie.

Munich, December 23rd, 1943.

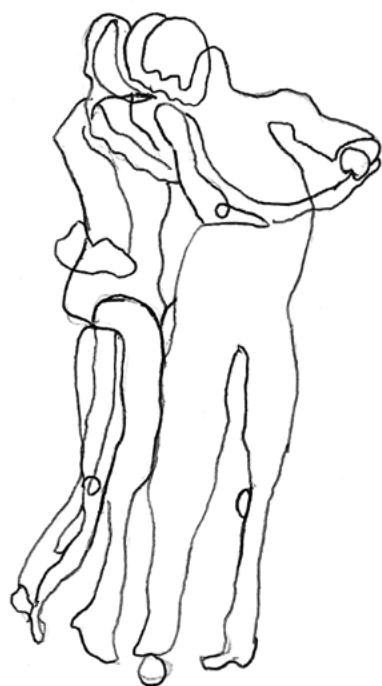
Dear Leonie,

I miss you and our laughs. Do you still remember when the two of us would go to the square near our house and spend the whole day together until dark, or when we would always be in the library reading books and talking about them? I feel I'm sorry I wasn't with you on your birthday. All our old friends still miss you. Remember that our grandmothers were friends, your grandmother is visiting mine a lot because she is sick and we still don't know what could be making her feel bad. A new boy joined the school and I became friends with him, his name is Joseph and he seems really cool but I realized that he has a crush on our friend Astrid.

I can't imagine what it must be like to live there, but I know there's no need to be afraid, no one would have the courage to make experiment on a girl as beautiful and wonderful as you. I hope the war ends soon and I know that soon you will leave this place and we will go out together again to enjoy the whole day without worrying about these dangers that are currently happening because of the war.

With love,

Hannah.



Italy, Bolzano, September 20th, 1944

Dear Ruth,

I miss you so much and especially our laughs. I made a friend here, her name is Raquel, she reminds me of you by her appearance and also by her personality.

As you know, my mother, Laura, is not Jewish and my father, David, was separated from me and so my situation is very difficult here in the ghetto. Every day that passes, I become more discouraged. I am participating in some activities, hidden from Hitler's soldiers, such as theater and art classes, so I can distract myself a little. These last few days I've been feeling a little sick, I'm hospitalized and they told me it's due to malnutrition, there isn't enough food here and I haven't eaten in a long time. I also see a lot of people with smallpox and cholera. But anyway, if you receive this letter tell me how you are.

Fondly,

Miriam.

Italy, Fossoli di Carpi, November 14th, 1944

Dear Miriam,

I was very happy to receive your letter, I miss you a lot too, I just want all this to end and for us to see each other again soon. I confess that I'm not very well, my parents were separated from me too. Only Ester managed to stay with me, but she is very sick, and this is making me very nervous. She hasn't slept for two nights because of the high fever. Everything here is horrible, we don't eat properly and we haven't showered in a long time, and because of that, I have lice.

I didn't make many friends, I only made one friend, Jorge, he's a little older than me, but he's the one who helps me to have strength. Miriam, I am very worried about you, try to send me more letters updating me on your situation, know that I miss you every day.

Hugs,

Ruth!

Germany, September 2nd, 1946

Hello Giosué,

My name is Hans and I was a soldier who participated in the massacres at the concentration camps. For one year after the end of the war, I thought about all the crimes I have committed and one of the people who died because of me was your father.

Giosué, I was the only Nazi who knew your father's secrets and because he omitted from you about the tragedy of the war and hid you in safety I ended up forced to kill him. I am very sad about this and I hope you forgive me, my only wish is that you can read this letter on September 2nd, 1956, after 10 years of writing it, when you are already an adult.

I hope we can meet and I can give you a hug because I know how much you must have suffered, when we meet I will be willing to answer any questions you have.

With love,

Hans Nürtemberg.

Italy, September 2nd, 1956

Mr. Nürtemberg,

I received your letter. I confess that firstly when I read it I've gotten really angry and upset, but then I realized, it wasn't your fault, it wasn't anyone's fault, you were forced to do it. I understand and forgive you, but I still can't forget about my father. I remember that day until now, the way he was desperate to hide and protect us, giving his own life to me. I know it now, I have my own family to take care of and I can say that they are the most important thing to me.

Mr. Nürtemberg, after I was hidden by my dad I was found by an old woman called Mary. She found and adopted me, she told all the truth about war, I couldn't be more shocked. Then she put me in school where I studied and became a professional engineer. I married a beautiful woman and we have two children who are twins. They are 3 years old now.

I thought you Germans were fully psychopaths and just wanted to kill everyone, but Mary told me that you weren't so bad. This man, Hitler, forced you all to do what he wanted, and in case you didn't, you were already dead. Of course I told my family the actual truth and that they shouldn't be angry at you and your nation. There are bad people in Germany, but there are also good people in your country. I hope you and your family are all right while reading this.

You have my respect,

Giosué Monty Nowan.

United States, March 29th, 1944

Dear Katherine,

I'm in The United States, how are you? Is your life in the camp crazy? We keep watching news about the war and our daughter misses you a lot, she keeps going to school and we are sheltering a family here at home. I also hope that you are well and that they are not mistreating you, Katherine. I love you very much, you are everything to us, you will be in our home with our families in peace. Have faith. I'll do everything I can to make sure you get out of the place you are alive and well, we'll be waiting for you, I hope the letter doesn't take long to arrive. Never forget that, my love, have faith that you will make it out of there. We love you so much.

With love,

Peter Harris

Germany, May 3, 1945

Dear Peter,

My name is Elionora, I live here in Buchenwald, I took this letter because it was under the snow. Our situation is horrible and I couldn't help but read it. I'm glad you're safe, I'm not Katharine, but I can get the letter to her as soon as possible, I'm sorry you're separated. Life here is unbearable, the "rooms" are overcrowded, the food is horrible, we earn money on camp maintenance and we suffer threats all the time.

I'm at your disposal for any help Peter, I don't know many people here but I'll try to find your wife, I think she's fine!

Thanks for the letter,

Elionora

London, September 6th, 1940

Dear Thomas,

Today, London is strange, airplanes were flying over the city and a lot of soldiers were in the streets. Of course I'm not used to this thing they call war, but today the city was more alerted to the planes, my mother said that it was totally normal but I don't believe her. My dad went to the war so I'm even more concerned. I think something is going to happen and the government doesn't want the civilians to discover what is happening to the city. Anyways, I really hope that the Nazis don't find you and the rest of your family.

I pray that we see each other again someday. The whole thing about war scares me, but trying to survive is the most important thing, isn't it? The bakery that my family runs has very few customers and it is difficult to get money to pay the bills. I wish you the very best.

From your dearest friend,

Susanne.

Berlin, November 16th, 1943

Dear Susanne,

I received your letter, but I discovered that a terrible bombing occurred in London! I hope from the bottom of my soul that you are well too.

The streets of Berlin are also dangerous. Nazi soldiers haven't discovered me yet, so I'm fine, but I am scared of what might happen from now on. I discovered that they are plotting against me. I will try to protect myself but unfortunately I cannot promise anything.

To finish this letter, I wish you good luck and hope we will meet again.

With affection,

Thomas.

United States, September 26th, 1944

Dear Oliver Reus,

I wrote this letter with pain in my heart, because I know that I am about to suggest something that goes against the moral and ethical principles we share. As you know, I have been thinking deeply about the possible Nazi threats and how we can solve this problem... But beyond that, thinking about what the Nazis can do to us, Reus, so I've been studying the implications of nuclear physics and the devastating potential that an atomic weapon can have. However, faced with the imminent threat represented by the advance of the Nazi army, which, although weaker, there is still a danger that perhaps does not involve the battlefields, but rather a nuclear threat, I feel obliged to share my concerns and, at the same time, offering a path that could be extremely important for the course of this war...

The possibility of the Nazis developing a weapon of mass destruction is a threat we cannot ignore. Nazi technology is very advanced and so is ours... The idea that our scientific knowledge could be misused is disturbing, but we must face the reality that the enemy may not have the same moral reservations as we do. You know very well what the Nazis have done. And that is why, despite my reluctance to use physics to create weapons of mass destruction, I believe we must explore all available options to ensure the security of our people and the free world.

I ask you to think carefully about my words and to consider the ramifications of our decisions. We are facing an unprecedented threat and, as scientists and patriots, we have a duty to act in defense of freedom and justice. I hope we can find a solution that allows us to preserve our values while facing the challenges that lie ahead. I ask that you discuss this with your advisors and co-workers, analyze the situation, With sincere concern and hope,

Albert Wirtz

United States, December 5th, 1944

Dear Albert Wirtz,

Your words echo deeply in my heart and mind, as we share instant anguish at the terrible threat posed by the Nazis. Your suggestion, although painful, is a reflection of the gravity of the situation in which we find ourselves.

However, we must firmly maintain our ethical and moral principles, even in the face of adversity. The use of science for mass destruction is a dangerous line that, once crossed, can trigger irreversible and unimaginable consequences. I suggest that, as we enter an unbridled arms race, we focus our efforts on defensive and diplomatic strategies, while continuing to promote scientific development for the good of humanity and not for its destruction, however, we must be aware that, if we do something wrong, we can kill people unnecessarily, I'm afraid that the American army will end up using these bombs of mass destruction on other nations that don't need to, like the USSR or Japan itself, which hasn't surrendered yet... then, me and my team would indirectly become the personification of death, the destroyer of worlds. But, I understand the gravity of the situation and the pressure we face, but we must remain true to our deepest values, even in times of crisis.

Thank you for sharing your concerns and hopes,
Oliver Reus.

Japan, August 9th, 1945

Dear Hikari Yamaguchi,

Hey Hikari, I saw on the news that The US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the news said that the two bombs are called "Little Boy" and "Fat Man". The two bombs together devastated the two cities and around two hundred thousand people died. Rumors say that The US intends to drop another bomb on Tokyo if Japan doesn't surrender. I hope the government answers soon, otherwise things are going to get tense here in Tokyo, especially for my family, because since my father died things have been very difficult, especially without the money from his work. And as for you, Hikari, I've heard that you're going through a lot of difficulties and I am very sorry about this situation, but right now there is not much I can do but offer my emotional support. Where are you living now? I intend to help people who lost everything wherever I can.

With love,

Yuki.

Japan, September 25th, 1945

Dear Yuki,

I'm not as I could be, because when the first bomb exploded I was on a business trip to Hiroshima and I had some third degree burns. I stayed in a shelter for some days and after that I was transferred to a hospital in Nagasaki and again, another atomic bomb exploded. Now, I have more burns and a double risk of getting cancer from radiation. I'm scared because I don't know if I will survive due to my injuries. I was talking to the government if they could help me financially and with medical care so I'm okay, if you can help other people would be better. I hope Japan surrenders soon, so that other people don't have to suffer what I suffered. Despite all this I am getting better everyday, but I was left with some sequelae, one of them is a hearing problem. Anyway I hope you stay good and The USA doesn't drop another atomic bomb on Japan, that you said would be in Tokyo.

Bye, thanks for your love,

Hikari Yamaguchi.

New York, September 2nd, 1942

Dear Rosie,

Since the day we separated, things couldn't get any worse, mom and dad took me to America so they could deal with ... you know. But I ran away. I am determined to find you, I believe you might still be alive! I know you are strong and wouldn't die for a small thing. I hope this letter finds you! Recently I've been through challenges that almost made me give up, leaving scars on many people, especially you. You disappeared when the Nazis came to France and I am so worried. Despite all the darkness and worry that the war brought, I found people who reminded me to move forward. I am reminded of your words, which gave me salvation when I was at rock bottom.

I wish that even with all the pain, you also have reasons to smile. I will find you, Rosie, I promise, no matter what it takes! This hurts me so much. I miss you.

Love,

Charlie.

France, August 20th, 1943

Dear Charlie,

I can't wait to meet you, since I got here I think about you all the time. I want to feel free again, to be free again, but I can't. Here things are horrible with precarious and inhuman situations. We are hungry, we are only objects that, when they no longer want, we are discarded. There are many battles, thousands of people die every day, children die every day! It's absurd. Mothers dying and losing babies, desperate fathers looking for their families, brothers and sisters in tears. This is our reality. I am completely lost. We are like trash to them, we have no value.

During my journey as a spy surrounded by Nazis, I suffered cruel interrogations, I was held captive and obviously I was captured. Thank you for not forgetting that I wrote this as quickly as I could, I hope you understand me. I am sorry for everything you've been through, don't worry, I'll be fine. Remember that I will always be with you.

With love,

Rosie.