

P.S. Dear Alan
I hope you got my I
letter with the pictures.

Get me know if you
received them.

N. Mia Bell July 1 1993

Dear Alan

I am ~~with~~ writing you some of the facts that occurred to our family & other Jews all over Europe. These facts are about a family of 7 children, 6 boys and 1 daughter. The daughter is telling the story of their survival. Please Alan, do not use the real names of the Sucht Family, choose another one. The PARENTS came to FRANCE FROM POLAND in the late 1920s with 4 sons. Then, the 1st FRENCH BORN was a Girl followed by 2 more sons. The youngest of the sons died in infancy. They were not rich but lived comfortably. Then came World War II. France was defeated and the country was occupied by the Nazis in May & June of 1940. THREE FIFTHS OF THE COUNTRY WAS UNDER GERMAN RULE, the rest was under a regime established by PETAIN & LAVAL. The south of France was occupied by the ITALIAN ARMY. The part of France ADMINISTERED BY VICHY WAS CALLED "UNOCCUPIED FRANCE". VICHY WAS ANTISEMITIC & STARTED ~~to~~

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ANTI JEWISH LAWS IN 1940, THEY COLLABORATED WITH THE NAZIS WILLINGLY IN THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS. FRANCE WAS FULL OF ACCOMPLICES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE WORKING FOR THE GERMANS... TO SURVIVE WAS GETTING WORSE DAY AFTER DAY! THE DEPORTATIONS OF THE JEWS OF FRANCE TO THE EXTERMINATION CAMPS FOR THE FINAL SOLUTION STARTED IN 1942 TO 1944, ENDING WITH THE LIBERATION OF FRANCE.

IN 1941 THERE WERE MANY CAMPS IN FRANCE "BEAUNE LA ROLANDE" "DRANCY" AND IN THE SOUTH "GURS" THEY WERE CALLED INTERNMENT CAMPS. FROM THESE CAMPS, MANY JEWS WERE DEPORTED TO THE DEATH CAMPS. MY FATHER WAS ARRESTED IN 1941 AND PUT IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP AROUND PARIS, HE WAS IN "BEAUNE LA ROLANDE" THE FRENCH WERE IN CHARGE OF THE CAMP. FATHER WENT HUNGRY, COLD AND FULL OF FEAR DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT. ONE OF MY UNCLE (HE WAS MARRIED TO MY FATHER'S SISTER)

(ONE OF) WAS IN THE SAME CAMP

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They were mostly FOREIGN Jews living in FRANCE. FATHER & my Uncle, were given a week to be with their families, before being sent to Germany for forced labor. My Father had no plans to go back to the camp, he begged my Uncle not to go back, to go in hiding with him, he refused and went back. FATHER hid with one of my older Brothers who had false papers as a Christian. A few days later, a representative from the Camp who was a Frenchman, came to the house to investigate, asking my Mother the reason ~~why~~ why my Dad did not show up for the transportation to Germany, she told him, that he had gone to the Unoccupied zone. After that, my Father returned to our house again, fearing constantly that they would arrest him any day! My Uncle was shipped to DRACHEN, later on he was transferred to Auschwitz in POLAND in 1942, he survived until 1945, then when the Russian troops were advancing towards the camp, the

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Germans evacuated the prisoners who could walk towards Germany, during the March, prisoners who could not walk anymore and fell on the ground, ~~and~~ were shot in the head by a German soldier on a motorcycle. My Uncle died just before the liberation at the end of the war, leaving a wife and 6 children who had been liberated in France ⁱⁿ 1944, after hiding for 2 years 1942-1944, the years of the final SOLUTION. The Jews in ITALY & HUNGARY were being deported until 1945 because the Germans were still occupying these 2 countries until 1945. One friend of my Father & Uncle was in Auschwitz and was in that March, he tried to help my Uncle by holding him, but, they hadn't eaten in days, they were cold and sick and they were dying like flies... After the War this friend told us the story, we all cried because we loved him so much. Dear Son, I will continue to send you more facts about our ordeal. I include some more pictures of our little Princess Izzy. We love you very much. Mom & Dad

WAR FACTS - I

In 1940, towards the end of the year, started the ANTI-JEWISH LAWS.

FIRST AT A LOW scale; like we were FORBIDDEN to go in the PARKS "NO JEWS OR DOG ALLOWED" Then we HAD to go in the last car of the SUBWAY OR BUSES. In 1941 came MORE ANTI-JEWISH LAWS with more prohibitions, they were called ~~the~~ "STATUT DES JUIFS" Many FOREIGN JEWS WERE ARRESTED and put in INTERNMENT CAMPS in FRANCE, all over FRANCE, even in the UNOCCUPIED territory or zone, because the LAVAL & Petain Government fully COOPERATED with the NAZIS. ALSO, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT before the WAR, WAS MUCH AGAINST FOREIGNERS, JEWS ^{and} NON JEWS.

In 1939, there WAS INTERNMENT CAMPS in FRANCE with LOTS of German

JEWS, SPANISH REFUGEES, Gypsies FROM Spain [The people had fled NAZI GERMANY & FRANCO's ^{ANTI-Jewish laws 1941} Fascist Regime] We couldn't go to movie Houses, THEATER, ~~to~~ opera or concert. NO MORE FOOD RATIONS - we had

FRANCO'S
FACIST
Regime

only a few HOURS to do our food or other
 SHOPPING. WE COULD ONLY get SOME food
 that were NO RATIONED, AS A RESULT, we
 began to be HUNGRY..... ALSO Jews could not
 work. Then, my Mother and all Jewish
 Housewives, had to go to a certain place
 to receive JEWISH STARS "STAR OF DAVID"
 12 per each family member member.
 These STARS were made of ~~the~~ yellow cloth
 and ~~a~~ black edges, inside were WRITTEN
JUIF in the form of Hebrew letters in
 FRENCH Writing. My Mother spent Hours sewing
 these stars on dresses, ~~st~~ Blouses, coats,
 pants, jackets, SHIRTS. For some reason,
 my Mother left some of our clothes free
 of the star. The Germans threatened us
 with deportation if we did not wear it
 in the street. Later on, we found out
 why! there were arrests of the Jews every-
 day! we were a good target-- we wore a
 patch-- Then came the day that ~~gave~~
 gave us another law, No Jewish chil-
 dren were allowed to go to school! not
 even to the library. That winter we
 froze in our apartment, we had no
 coupons for coal, we could not warm up
 the stove. Many Jews we arrested in

III

● The synagogue while praying... it was a sure death sentence to go to the Temple. One of my Christian friend brought me books to read, she took it from the library on her name... that winter I discovered many French authors. In 1942, many rumors were going around that everyone will be deported, eventually, where? No one knew one of my brother who worked with the French Resistance, was taking French young men over the Spanish border so that they could join De Gaulle's

● FRENCH ARMY in ENGLAND & NORTH AFRICA. Most of these young men wanted to avoid Force LABOR in Germany. My Brother, went back & forth crossing the FRENCH-SPANISH BORDER for several times. One day, he got caught in the act and was arrested by the Spanish authorities who in turn, turned him over to the French who were the police from Laval's Government. My Brother was put in an Internment camp called "GURS" Having Identity as a FRENCH CHRISTIAN, the French Police thought that he might be a spy or a Communist. He went through horrible torture, despite the pain he

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SUFFERED, he denied everything they ~~accused~~ accused him of. ~~THE~~ THE Police kept him in Gurs for several months. The conditions of the camp were abominable, everyday people died of starvation and diseases. It was so bad that, some of the German jews who were veterans of ~~WORLD~~ WORLD War I ~~1914~~ (1914-1918) wrote to the Embassy of Germany in PARIS, to let them go back to PARIS to become prisoners of the Germans! Not knowing that the NAZIS had plans for their fate. One day, we received a notice that a friend of ours was in PARIS in an prison camp.

It was my Brother, they had transferred him from "Gurs" to PARIS, to be sent to Germany for forced labor. We got a pass to be able to see him. Naturally we did not put on clothes with the yellow star! We were not suppose to be family, just friends. My Brother was so thin, he had a swollen belly and swollen feet, he could barely walk! We had taken some bread and cheese + 2 apples. He could hardly swallow the food! He told my ~~mother~~ Mother that they were going to be sent to Germany in a few days. He told us that we should

Come back Sunday, that he was entitled to a last visit before his departure, he told us to bring him a coat, a hat, pants & shirt and shoes. He also assured my Mother that he will be back soon! In the prison yard, we notice so many Gypsies with children, some were breast feeding their infants (these Gypsies were sent later on to the extermination camps in cattle cars.)

Dear Son

I shall continue with more information on our odyssee. I'm telling you all true facts, to the best of my recollection. All this happened, it is not fiction... it's real, quite incredible, but Real. I did not mention my Brother's name Jacques. This story is told by the daughter - you will have to give them names - you will ~~write~~ WRITE ~~and~~ tell the story about those people.

~~Wanna~~ I know that with your talent as an author, you will do a superbe job! God Bless you.

Your Mom & Dad

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics, and that the laws of quantum mechanics are in agreement with the experimental facts.

2. In the second part of the paper, the author discusses the application of the theory of the structure of the atom to the study of the properties of the elements of the periodic system. It is shown that the theory of the structure of the atom can be used to explain the periodicity of the properties of the elements, and that it can be used to predict the properties of the elements which have not yet been discovered.

P.S. Dear Alan
I would like your opinion
about the start of the I
Story. Love, your Mom

I will continue in
a few days with more
books. Hope you are
O.K. Hugs & Kisses ^{xxxx}_{xxx}

Dear Alan

Here are more facts about our life
under the German occupation.

July 16 1942, at 5 AM. the French
police knocked at our door. I awoke
by the noise, there, stood a French
policeman, with a list in his hands,
when my Mother opened the door,
He asked my Mother if this was the
residence of the (Tuchtt) family, my
Mother said yes, he came in and
started to ask, where was my Father?
and my brothers? he named every-
one of them. My Mother told the
policeman that they all had gone
to the unoccupied zone. Then, the
Policeman, told my Mom, when looking
at me, is she (Monie) your daughter?
my Mom responded yes; that I was
her only daughter. The Gendarme told
my Mother; that he had orders to ar-
rest us, he said that we would be sent
to work in Germany! He told us to take
all the VALUABLES with us, plus food
and clothing. My Mother could not
believe that they would arrest us
since the rumor had not been

very specific, it was to be only men and boys! the policeman let us get in another room to get dressed... Mother told me in Yiddish to take a blouse that had no star of David on and also a light jacket with no star... She did the same with her clothes. She took the money that my Father had given her before going to ~~hide~~ hide and all her jewelry and put it in her handbag. As we were getting dressed, we looked out the window and saw our neighbors, who lived across our building in the courtyard, being arrested by 2 policemen! they carried valises, blankets, food! our neighbors were a big family composed of 11 children and ~~their~~ parents, it was lucky that the 7 younger ^{their} children had been placed in the rural country in different places, because it was July, vacation ^{season} for the season in normal times! but in those circumstances, it was to save their young lives. Anyway, we saw the Father the Mother carrying a little infant of 3 months called Marie, the oldest daughter called Sonia (she was engaged to be married) aged 19. then the oldest son 17 named

David and Bernard aged 15. Then my Mother told me to do exactly what she ~~was~~ would tell me. I saw in my Mother's eyes terror and fear... she was an exceptional intelligent woman, she knew at that moment that death was our destination. She refused to take anything with us. We came in the living room where the Policeman was waiting for us... he told my Mother how come she did not pack any valises or take any food! Mother told him "Where we are going my daughter and I; we will not need anything! that we will have no more needs.... When I heard these words... I realize that I was going to die... I started to cry with no control... The gendarme looked at me with some pity... He told my Mom that we probably be put to work in a Factory in Germany! Mother told him what could a Baby of 3 months do? then she told him "you should be ashamed to arrest a French National like you are... your own people... She told him "I am Polish". I will go with you, but let my daughter go... I started to cry even louder and told my Mom that I will not go without her. When we went down the stairs, she

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told me in yiddish that we have to escape if the opportunity presents itself. When we arrived in the street, the spectacle we saw... would remain in our memory for years & years. Thousands of people sitting on balconies with little children, babies, teen-agers, Men & women of all ages and of course so many Policemen running left & right! Some of them yelling that some tenants would not open their doors... and were forced to break in! of course they were French people who ~~symp~~ sympathized with the Jews that had been their neighbors and were screaming at the Gendarmes that they were collaborators of the Boches! to leave us alone... and so many French people looking out from their windows... All of a sudden, Mother told our policeman, she would like to buy some bread to take along with us because we were going to the Velochrome d'Hiver for several days before being deported and we would starve... there was a bakery at the end of the block. The policeman told us to go & keep on going, he turned away and started to help the people banging

Buses to take them away to the Stadium (Vélodrome d'Hiver) Mother and I just waited normally till we got around the corner, then we ran to another block, as we ran, we saw the buses full of people, waving good-bye to us.... We heard the Policemen's whistles as some Jews had try to escape (they had worn the yellow stars) My Mother thought they were looking for us... we stopped in front of a building, we rang the bell to walk in, it was so dark inside we hardly ~~see~~ could see anything.... we stood

in the corner of the door, hiding & shivering with fright! then the concierge appeared with a flashlight in his hands; he looked at us and asked us what was going on? We told him that the Police was arresting people and that we had escaped, we did not tell him we were Jewish but we had a feeling that he knew! anyway, he told us that he is opening the door to look out and see if it's safe to walk out... he came in again and said; I hope you have where to hide! it is not safe to be here... he looked again opening the door, telling us it was safe to go... he even wished us good luck and cursed the Germans. We

started to walk at a normal pace as not to arouse suspicion. We were afraid to take any ^{public} transportation, buses, subways or even taxis... the Germans would stop any vehicle if they suspected the people and ask for their papers... We walked for 2 hours and finally arrived in front of the Building where my Brother (Jack) lived in a large studio. We decided that I would go up ~~first~~ first and then Mother would follow... I knocked at the door and my Brother opened it fast and told me Hurry up inside, he then ~~with~~ went in the hall to wait for my Mother, they entered fast and locked the door. He knew what had ~~to~~ happened, he had seen the Police arresting Jews on his street and being put on buses. He was overjoyed that we had escaped and we told him that Father and my 2 Brothers were still upstairs in hiding in the apartment. My Brother told us that at night fall, he would get them out and bring them here with us. He made us breakfast and we fell asleep on his bed.

Dear Dean

If you have time, write me a few lines on a postal card and let me know if you received the letters. We love you here. Mom & Dad

N. Miami Bch. July 19-93

I

Dear Alan

I am continuing to write to you more facts, about what happened during the War.

My Brother Jacques (use another name) was taken to the ~~Tr~~ Station to Board a Train for transportation in Germany. Since my Brother had papers as a Frenchman, he was taken in a group of forced labor, composed of young men in their 20's or 30's. The Gypsies and Jews were kept in the temporary ~~co~~ prison camp; to be sent later on to the Extermination Camps, they were sent in cattle cars. My Brother Frenchman's had a plan to escape the transport port. The young men started to climb the stairs and enter the Wagons and sit down, my Brother entered, but instead of sitting down, he went into another ~~car~~ compartment and went out the door that gives to the Tracks. He was dressed so well because my Mother had brought him the new clothes & new shoes

"for the Frenchmen's transport port. They use the real trains"

* now hat and sun glasses he had asked for. He walked out a free Man. When our door rang and ^{we} opened it, there stood Jacques looking more like a Gestapo man than the prisoner he had been! Mother was overjoyed and so were all of us. My Parents went to look for a Room in a Hotel that was friendly to people in hiding and Jacques went there. The situation got worst in regards to the Jews. My Brother Leon was around 16 at the time and wanted to go to the unoccupied France. My older Brother (Hymie) ~~and~~ his wife and their only child (Charles) had decided to go to the unoccupied part of France and were willing to take (Leon) with them. First went my Sister-in-law (Edvine) with my nephew (Charles) when they ^{succeeded} to pass the demarcation line, my Brothers (Hymie & Leon) went away too. Thousand of Jews passed this line to save their lives. This was done with a guide who was paid for this service, it was very risky

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It was considered like a Frontier and guarded by so many Germans... armed with rifles & machine guns. They also had German shepherd dogs, that would swim across rivers to catch and maimed their victims. Many did not make it....

We received a letter from all four of them, a short letter with a special code that they were O.K. After so many weeks of worrying, we could breathe better. I advised them that they did not have to look at the Beette Boche anymore! Guyding Jens were arrested. We were fearing for our lives... Everyone asked; where did the people go? no news, no nothing, just disappear out of sight.

JULY 15 1942

July the 15 was full of rumors, a few persons who were friendly with the French Police, had heard that all the Men & Children males would be arrested and sent to a Camp for work! My Mother told my Father that he had to hide with my 2 Brothers aged 10½ & 14 years old. (Henri or Boniface & Fernand) But where?

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My Father (Jacques) kept a low profile and lived in a small studio. Since he was an escapee, he did not go out unless it was necessary. Then my Mother got an excellent idée ... there was an empty apartment that had been occupied by a French couple, they had gone away to live with some relatives on a farm because food was so scarce and hunger was very dominant in Paris, even with coupons. Rations, people starved ... The Concierge of our apartment building was our friend, when we had coupons for wine, we gave them all to her. We also were generous with her for the Holidays on many occasions. My Mother asked her if she would give her the keys of the empty apartment, so that my Father and my Brothers could hide for a day or two. M^{me} Gros said that of course, she would give the keys to my Mother as long as she needed them. M^{me} Gros had given my Brother (Leon) a birth certificate, also a Baptism certificate for my Brother

V

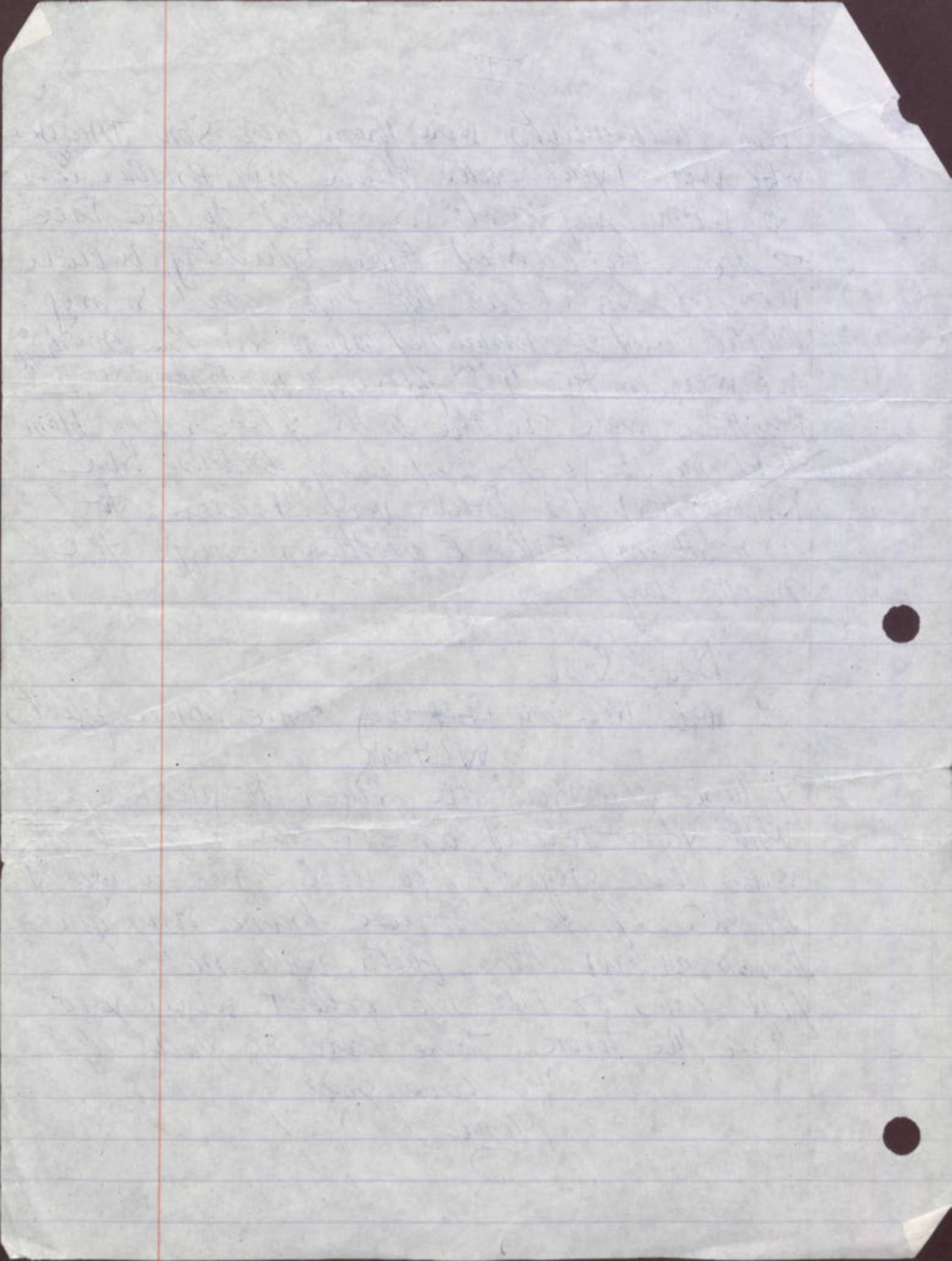
This documents were from Pier Son JAQUES who was 1 year older than my Brother Leon. So when my Brother went to the Free zone, he carried this Identity which would save his life later on! So my Mother and I remained alone in the Apartment. We were on the 4th floor. My Father & 2 Brothers were on the 5th floor. My Mom told me to go to bed early because she knew that the Police would come to arrest my Father & Brothers early... the next day!

Dear Son

I will keep on ~~writing~~ ^{writing} some more facts

I hope you keep the pages together. With your talent as a writer & poet & with this subject, you will have a good book. If you ~~have~~ have any questions about those facts, write me a few lines or call me collect when you have the time. Take care of yourself.

We love you
Mom & Dad



I

July 30 - 93

Dear Alan

We ~~are~~^{were} Happy to hear you are please.
Hope you received all the latest information I sent you? Keep on taking care of yourself. Here are more information.

My Mother and I woke up in the late afternoon, it felt like we had had a nightmare! My Brother (Touques) had gotten dressed to go out, he went scouting to our address to see if there was some police stationed there, also to see if it was safe when he would take out my Dad and 2 Brothers. Before leaving, he told us to stay away from the windows. The Bathroom was in the Hall, my Mother would look to see if it was free and no one was in the Hall; for us to go. Before he left, he told us not to open the door if anyone knocked. - not to put the Radio on. There were many ^{INFORMERS} ~~informants~~ working with the Gestapo who paid them for any ^{thing's} ~~thing~~ ^{and} they would tell them were the Jews were hiding and the Gestapo ordered them to put them in a temporary temporary ~~French~~ concentration camps to FRENCH

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he sent to the next Convoy going to the Death Camps. Many of the Jews arrested were shot right away because ~~their~~ German Law said that; any Jew escaping or hiding would be shot--- if found. My Brother left us and went away. During the hours that he was away, My Mom & I were praying that God would watch over the 4 of them. When we heard people walking & talking in the ~~hall~~ ^{HALL}, we went panic! It was night, so far no return... then we heard the key opening the door very quietly and there they ~~was~~ were! the 4 of them. We all embarrassed and cried at the same time. My Father told us that he saw us being arrested in the morning, ^{through the window} he wanted to go down, but my Brothers (Fernand & Boulou) would not let him, he thought he would never see us again. (Jacques) told us to speak very low, better yet to whisper, we were 6 people in one room! (Jacques) told us that the streets were quiet but once in a while the Germans would ask for papers... so he walked through small streets instead of the large Avenues & Boulevards!

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When he arrived at our street, there was no one in front of our door. He went to see the Concierge who knew him very well, she crossed herself, we had told her that we did not know ~~where~~ where he was! She went up to the apartment where my Father & Brothers were hiding the Concierge had prepared some food to bring to them, Bread - Cheese - apples, but wanted to wait until very late at night, she was afraid she would be seen - My Brother (Jack) gave her money for having saved my Dad and Brothers. They left walking

Separately 2 by 2. After we ate something, we went to sleep not knowing how we would survive the ~~days~~ coming days! What would happen to us! The next day, Jack went out to buy some Footbraces and other necessities, but not in the neighborhood as not to arouse suspicion - he bought some bread too. When he came back, he said that there was another round-up of Jews by the French Police, not as big as the day before, but big enough! This was July 17 - 1942. (Jack) ~~we~~ went in a Bistro

To get a cold drink, because the heat was intense, the Radio was on, they were telling about the arrest of the Jews who

IV

had been taken to the Velodrome d'Hiver which was a large Parisian indoor sports arena, it was not only used for sports events, but also for political rallies and during the Nazi occupation for propaganda and antisemitic demonstrations. Even before the war, there was a demonstration against Léon Blum ^{A Jew} who was Premier of France (1936-37) later on (1946-47) attended by notable antisemites like XAVIER VALLAT and BARONIER de Pellepoix. It was very à-propos to put the Jews at the Vel. They packed 7,000 adults and 4,000 children on the 1st round-up of July 16-1942. France received that same day 6,000 people the Vel could only receive ^{FROM SNB/RPL} the maximum of 15,000 people! The round ups were to be 28,000 under arrest. So between Drancy's 6,000 and the Vel's 11,000 - total 17,000, all the rest of the 28,000 would go to the Vel! That would be another 11,000! We found out from some members of my family who were survivors and came back after the war from the death camps, that the conditions at the Vel were atrocious, the people spent days & nights on the wooden benches, packed like sardines.

● dines, those who had taken some food ~~at~~ from home could eat a little the first 2 days, after that, there was no food nor water and no facilities... they could not sleep for there was no place to lie down --- with all that, the heat was to its highest degree! people were getting sick all the time, in particular, the children and old people who were the most vulnerable! The German were not so happy about the amount of Jews arrested they expected to take in 28.000, ^{IN PARIS} but only 9,800 July 16-1942 and 3,000 on ~~the~~

● July 17, 1942. The total was less than 3,000 because thousands like my Mom and I, had escaped... Later on, another 4,000 Jews had been captured in August of 1942, all were taken to DRANCY which was compared to the extermination camps of the East, the internees were hardly fed and many died of sicknesses like dysentery and tuberculosis. When they were sent later on to the death camps, ^{those who had survived} many died on the way in the cattle cars. DRANCY was under the French AUTHORITIES, they collaborated with the Nazis with ardor... On the other hand, many Gendarmes looked the other way! saving thousands of lives while many of the escapees

would be arrested eventually and die in the
 camps of Buchenwald, Dachau, Ravensbrück
 and Treblinka. The Germans would try
 any ~~trick~~ tricks to capture Jews. Many Jews
 had not gone to the Prefecture of Police
 to have their Identity stamped with the
 word "JUIF" for Men ^{and} "Juive" for
 Women "Jew & Jewess" in 1940 or 1941. Unfortu-
 nately most went (My own Family) the
 reason was that if you did not go, there ~~would~~
 would not be any Ration coupons for food,
 they were promising that those who would
 go to stamp their identity ~~papers~~ cards
 would receive Ration coupons again....
 At the beginning of the Occupation, they did
 give Ration coupons, after that, when things
 got real bad, hardly anyone would go and
 risk their lives... those who went, never
 came back! My Brother (Jack) had only Ration
 coupons for himself, he try to feed us at the best
 of his ability and we were starving... My
 Father and my Brother discussed the situation
 they said that we should try to get to the
~~un~~occupied zone. To do that, was a
 very great Risk! We would have to pass
 the DEMARcation line...

Dear Abbie, I will continue ~~and~~ to write
 more. Love you, Hugs & Kisses. Mom & Dad

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Dear Son

How are you? I Hope Well. I was ill for a few days but I am feeling fine now. I am sending you more informations.

My FATHER & my Brother (Jacques) discussed the plan for passing ~~the~~ from the ~~occupied~~ occupied zone to the free zone. They decided that the children would go first. It was more or less a week that we were in hiding at my Brother's (Jacques) place. We were going to go at the beginning of August 1942. Meanwhile, my nephew (Charles) grandparents on his Mother's side, and their Granddaughter (Hélène) who was 7 years old at the time, had gotten in touch with (Jack) through another relative who was in hiding herself. They wanted (Jack) to take them to the free zone and they ~~wanted~~ ^{WANTED} to hide with us until we would ^{WANTED} pass on the other side... they came at night with a taxi, but not in front of ~~my Brother~~ Jack's building, but a block away... in case something went wrong, they did not want to jeopardize all of us. They came to our door, since we knew they were

coming, we opened the door quickly and let them in. Now we were 9 people in a Studio! 5 Adults & 4 children... so little place to move... only 1 large bed where my Mom, Helene's Grandmother (Bouba) Helene and I slept in the width of the bed instead of the length! The Men & the boys slept on the floor on blankets and pillows. Of course some problems arose... we were hungry and Hot and the sanitary conditions were most ~~primitive~~ primitives! We were supposed to leave just us children with (Jack) but Helene's Grandparents didn't want to let her go without them! So the plan was changed and the Grandparents came along with us children... against my Brother "Jack" better judgment! 3 Adults and 4 children... it was quite risky. 7 people are not so inconspicuous inconspicuous! But we would walk in 2 groups, a distance away from each other... My Parents were ~~sup~~ staying in the place until (Jack) would return for them to pass the demonstration line. In the first week of August 1942 We left, 1st my Brother "Bernard" and Helene's Grandparents in a taxi, to meet us at the Station, then (Jack) (Bouba)

Hélène and I left in another taxi. I was happy to get out of that room which I called the cell... Many years ~~later~~ later, when I read the diary of Anne Frank, I had understood her pains and fears because I lived it myself. I was scared for my Parents because they were left behind... "Jack" had given them some provisions that he had gotten from a catholic organization that helped Jews and people from the ~~the~~ Résistance who were hiding. Before Jack had been a prisoner in GURS, he had passed many people, especially young De Gaulle's who wanted to join de Gaulle's ARMY. He knew all the dangerous routes, the points of inspections by German and French Milicia (Laval's people "or Police") We traveled by train in the late afternoon. We arrived in a small town, the station was nearly empty. Jack told us, he had to call some connection on the phone. A few minutes later he came back telling us that a couple were coming to fetch us. We waited $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and there they were. of course we had no valises, "Jack" had a small knapsack with a few things that he carried on his back, like a change of underwear for each of us, soap, tooth brushes, and crackers to snack on!

IV

we followed the couple and arrived to a large house, 1st the couple went inside, then a little while later, the Grandparents of (Hélène) and (Fernand) went in, we waited a little while and we went in, (Hélène) (Jack) (Bonroute) and I. We ~~were~~ were glad to be inside such huge house... beautifully furnished... An elderly Lady came in, (Jack) went over and gave her an embrace, she said that it had been a long time since she saw him. We were all introduced. The Lady's name was (Odette) she had cooked some soups for us and urged us to sit down and eat. To us it was the 1st hot meal since July the 16th, we were served a Rabbit ~~steak~~ STEW too and some bread. They had a beautiful garden and they grew vegetables and raised rabbits for the meat, they did not suffer hunger like the people of the cities. We slept on lovely beds with clean sheets! The next day we took time on bathing, children first and then the adults... we remain 2 days and 2 nights. It was 2 days of Heaven in a world of Hell. The 3rd day of our stay we left in the early afternoon, again in ^{STAY} in

V

groups. The young couple (Jeanette and Pierre) who was "Odette's" nephew, wait to buy the ~~other~~ tickets at the station and (Jack) met them outside and they gave him the tickets. They stood a few minutes talking, they shook hands and left. I was standing near the window watching them. I wished that I could had have such peaceful life with no fear, no hunger, clean clothes and being able to take a bath everyday! like this young couple! The train arrived on time, we ~~traveller~~ ^{TRAVELLED} for

quite a while. We arrived at destination that was before the Demarcation line.

(Jack) told us that we would have a lot of walking to do. We had a problem with "Bouta" she was overweight and could not ~~use~~ walk so well.. we had to stop quite often so she could rest... (Jack) was worried that it will be very difficult for her to pass the frontier and might have to run from the German guards and their vicious dogs, it had happened quite often on previous trips he had taken before he was interned in

ENRS. It seems we walked for ever, we took secondary roads to avoid military transports of Germans and they were

VI

plenty of them! we could hear them sing
 "Lili MARLENE" ~~is~~ from far away. We were
 in FARM COUNTRY. Some peasants would
 pass us by on ~~their~~ bicycles, once in
 a while, looking at us with surprised
 expressions... We the children smiled
 and waved at them... Some of them
 showed indifference, others responded
 with a smile and gesture. Finally, we
 arrived at a small Farm. "Jack" shook hands
 with 2 old people, "wife & Husband" then with
 a young woman carrying a Baby Boy.
 We sat down exhausted, we took our
 shoes off... to ease the pain! The old lady
 "MADELEINE" sat us ^{AT THE TABLE} in the Kitchen
 which was also the living-room. She ser-
 ved Soup - Bread & cheese. Later on, "Made-
 leine's" son "Jean" came in, he was big
 and smiled all the time. He said that
 there was no Justice in this world when
 children had to hide and run for their li-
 ves, innocent kids who had the right
 to play like ~~it~~ ^{it} was supposed to be! We
 slept in a barn that night on beds
 of Hay. The next day, after a breakfast
 of hot milk and bread, "Jack" coached
 us children what to say in case a German
 PATROL would stop us.

N.M.B. AUGUST 14-93

I

Dear Alan

Here I go again, writing more
information

Before we left in the early afternoon,
to try to pass to the Free Zone, my
Brother "Jack" coached ^{us} to know what
to say; if we were stopped by the Germans,
that "Helene" was his niece and "Barthelemy"
and me, his cousins, "Fernand" his brother
his younger brother, also that we were
hiking in the countryside because
we were on summer vacations from
school. "Jack" told Bubba PZABO, Helene's
Grandparents to keep behind us at
a distance and if stopped by soldiers
to tell them that they were going
to get some food in the farms around
there. He told Bubba not to open her
mouth and talk, to let ZABO speak
because she had a poor command
of the French language with a thick
Jewish accent, while he spoke fluently
French. So, all us children left ^{1st} with
"Jack", we walked towards the woods
on ~~at~~ a country road, we marched pretty
fast if there was no one, slowing
down if there were peasants working
on their farms. Just before entering

● The woods, we were supposed to enter a small path that would lead us to a small stream and get back to the woods to continue until we could see ^{a field with} a barbed wire ^{band} and get through it, and we would be in the free zone. Unfortunately, it went wrong, as we approached the path, ~~at~~ a German officer and a German soldier stopped us. The soldier was holding a bike, he looked at us straight and told something to the officer. The German officer started to question "Jack" asking for his papers which were in order, indicating

● ^{that} he was a Freudenman and a Christian. ^{he had a temporary certificate} he asked about us the kids aged 7-10-12-14 what we were doing so close to the demarcation line? That officer spoke French like a native... "Jack" told him we were relatives and taking us for a hike... the officer told us to turn back and hike some where else, that it was not safe around this park. Luckily for Bubba & Zeida ^{at a} ^{walking} great distance from us, because Bubba could not walk well, always complaining about the pain in ~~his~~ her feet, when seeing the Germans stopping us, had been smart enough to go in a barn asking for a glass of water, they were in a state of panic

and the parents understood that something was wrong, they tried to calm them down. Meanwhile we turned back on the Road and started to walk, we were wondering what had happened to the old folks. Jack kept on saying "~~THANK~~" "THANK God" they were walking so slow if they would have kept at a small distance the Germans would have seen them and we would have all been arrested and sent to the ~~Death~~ ^{concentration} Camps. As we walked, we heard someone saying pft...pft... coming from a farm that we were passing by, it was ZBIDA, he said; come in, come in... we ran inside happy to be out of sight! The parents turn out to be on our side, very patriotics and hating the Boche. They fed us and told us that there was another way to pass on the other side, to wait until it got a little darker. Jack and the farmer walked through the field and he showed him how we could pass with less danger - but, that it would take longer, much longer and they were less guards! The farmer and Jack returned to the farm. Bubba was still in a state of panic... and we tried to calm her down.

IV

● We waited until the Sun went down. The FARMERS told us to walk in SMALL Group, preferably 2 By 2, but not to distance ourselves too much, because it was easy to get lost around the woods... We bid Good Bye to the FARMERS before the Sun went down and we started to walk - Jack and Helene first - Boubaile and I - Fernand by himself and then the Grandparents. Needless to tell how scare we were... We heard some dogs bark but otherwise it was very quiet... We marched & marched, following ~~the~~ each other and Jack turning around ~~to~~ see quite often to see if we were following him, we were marching at the edge of the Woods. After a long while Jack & Helene stopped and waited for us. ~~After~~ Boubaile and I joined them and a little while later Fernand. We waited for Bouba & Zaida and finally they appeared, totally exhausted! Now we were supposed to be a quarter going straight through the Woods to reach a field where we would have to go through a barbed wire. Thank God the Wood was not too deep, mostly stretched out in the width. We did not talk, we walked & walked without resting. Finally we reached a large field to be

IV

crossed 1 by 1 except for Helene who would be carried by Jack. Jack told us to wait at the edge of the woods hiding behind the trees, he ~~waited~~ wanted to go and see if there was German patrols in the field. He came back a little while later, He took Helene and carried her across the field, I went next by myself, walking straight across the field, my heart pounding thinking that some Germans were watching me and would shoot me. To my relief, I saw Jack & Helene both on the other side of the barbed wire, they were in the Free zone! As soon as I arrived, Jack opened ~~the~~ and stretched the wire as much as he could and I went through it easily because I was very thin. Then came Boulouche, a little while later Fernand, we were in the Free zone and felt safe... We waited for Bubbe and Zaida, we were a distance from the wire as Jack had told us to walk away a few meters. We were worried because the old folks had not arrived yet! Night fall was here already but the summer night is still pretty light, it takes a long day of many hours to get real dark!

P.S. I will write
again in a few days
Mum

VI

Jack was nervous and said that he might have to cross again to look for them. Could have them been arrested? Helene started to cry softly and I reassured her that Zaida was very intelligent and would know what to do! That he would not get lost since he & Bubba to have to walk in a straight line! We were waiting, sitting on the grass, we were so tired... and hungry... We saw them coming... we were overjoyed... Zaida holding Bubba who could barely walk anymore! Jack and Zaida stretched out the wire for Bubba to go through, she was scared to get hurt, she said she could not do it, Jack got mad and told her, it was better to get scratched a little than die at the hands of the ~~the~~ Nazis! Bubba was grossly overweight, it took a long time until she went through, she was stucked, her dress stucked in the wire... She was scratched all over her legs & arms. Zaida was not
no problems with him... Thank God we were all of us in the unoccupied zone!

Dear Stan

I hope you are well. if you can, write a few lines in case you have any questions. We miss you and love you.

Hugs & Kisses
Mum
Dad

P.S. # Hope you got
all the letters.

Mom

I

N.Y. Bch. August 20 1993

Dear Alan

How are you? Dad and I are OK. So far!
It's very hot here in Florida, over 90
every day... We can't wait for the
cool weather! I hope that you are OK.
We are glad that you take good care of
yourself. We love you very much.

Love, Hugs & Kisses.

Mom & Dad.

I'm sending you more informations.

We were in the free zone! Jacques
told us that we were free from the
Germans, but we had to be still
careful from Rétain, and Lapal's
Milice, they, were just as bad as
the NAZIS! We started to walk towards
the Main Road. It was getting dark,
we held hands so that we should
not get lost... Jacques had never
crossed the border on this particular
side and had been used to cross
where the Germans had stopped us
on the first try... he also had con-
nections there... after a long walk, we

II

Reached the main Road. We walked and never saw a car or bike it was completely deserted... ~~finally~~ ^{FINALLY} after a long while, we could see some lights, houses and a church. We entered the village, we heard some talk and ~~loud~~ laughter that came from a BISTRO (cafe) that we were passing by. We all entered the bistro, there were some young people at the bar and some were sitting... We were strangers; so they looked at us... for a while... We sat down at 2 tables, the owner came to our tables and ask us what we wanted to drink, he looked at us kids and told Jack that he had lemonade for the children! Jack asked him if we could get some food too, the owner said that the kitchen was close for hot food, but he could give us some Ham, cheese, Jam, Salami and bread. When we heard about those food, we were overjoyed, it sounded like a feast to us... we were starved! and so THIRSTY! The BISTRO owner put all the food and drinks on the table and we

III

Started to eat. After we finished our meal, Jack paid the bill and asked the owner of the BISTRO, if there was an INN, he told him there was one but not on the main street, he gave Jack all the instructions ~~how~~ ^{How} to get there. We left the place and started to walk again... Thank God it was not too far! The INN was ~~to~~ very lighted and we could hear a Radio playing nice music. We entered the INN and there was quite a few people. Jack asked a waiter who was holding a tray with drinks, who was in charge of renting rooms? he told him that he would get the man in charge. After waiting a few minutes, the waiter came down with an elderly man. Jack asked him if he had 2 rooms free, he answered that he had 1 large room with double beds, 1 smaller room with 1 bed. We took the smaller ~~room~~ room with Helene sleeping between BUBBA and me. The man took the larger one. The next day Jack knocked at the door... I opened

IV

it and let Jack in. He told us to get washed and dressed, that we had to catch trains, he said that we should come in his room when we were ~~finished~~ finished. A little while later we joined the men. They were ~~all~~ dressed and ready to go. Before going down the stairs, Zaida gave Jack some money to buy their ~~the~~ tickets for Bubba, Helene and him, they were going to a different town than us. Helene's Mother and father had gone away a few months before to prepare for Helene and her grandparents for when they would come in the free zone. As for Jack, Bubba, Fernand and I, we were going to join my 2 brothers, Nymic and Leon, ~~then~~ my sister-in-law and nephew. Jack paid the Inn owner for the rooms and he asked him where was the station? he was told how to get there. We left and started to walk towards the station. We arrived at the station, there was no one there... We sat down

V

and waited. After waiting a while a couple came in and sat down too. More people came in later on. The man who sold the tickets opened his window, Jack and I went over to buy the tickets, the man told us that our train would arrive in 2 hours, as of Zaida's train, it will be only $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Zaida's train arrived on time, we said good ~~by~~ Bye and if we survived this war we would get together again... We did not see them until 1945. ~~Then~~ Meanwhile we waited for our train, Jack bought a newspaper. We heard the whistle of the train. I was delighted to get on it... We traveled for hours, we had reached the Loire Region, it was beautiful looking out the train window I could see many castles, beautiful fields, peasants working their fields and waving at us... We arrived in a town called Beaune it was a lovely town! we went to a restaurant to eat some food. Jack asked the waiter

A TOWN
called
BEAUNE

if we could get a train to Perreux, he told him that the train would only go up to LE COTEAU and then we could take a bus to Perreux. We did just that and arrived in Perreux. The family was overjoyed to see us, they had heard of the Round ups of the Jews ^{in Paris} and they had been worried sick about us. We did not know how my Parents were doing, my Brothers but I trusted our ~~Ex~~ Father who was quite alert about dangerous situations, also he was very suspicious of people since the Anti-Jewish laws had begun in the occupied zone... Jack stood ^{and would not take chances} only 2 days with us, he wanted to cross the demarcation line and bring back ~~my~~ our Parents and his girlfriend. I felt bad about my Parents having to go through the ordeals of passing to the Free Zone, I worried especially for my Dad, because he had a bad Heart, when the Germans were coming towards France, after the invasion of Belgium, he had a Heart Attack.

lots of love Mom & Dad.

My
FATHER
WAS
very
suspicious
of people
and would
not take
any
chances

I

N.M.B. AUGUST 25-93

My Dear Son

I was very happy to hear from you on the phone. I was glad that you could understand my informations. On the other hand, I felt like you were hostile against your Dad and I! I don't know, nor do I understand why? Most of all, Dad and I were very glad that you were going by invitation to Germany. When you were invited the 1st time by the Germans and Austrians, we told everyone about it, we were bursting with PRIDE for your Success; Then the second time even more. Now it's the 3rd time and we can't even express how we feel... maybe the word "EXUBERANT" is appropriate. My Son, I think that you don't know your Parents very well! I feel bad about it! As for asking me, how come I never ask about your work, about details, let me tell you that I was ~~scare~~ scared to ask questions, because, you wrote me once in a card that

II

Communicative

you were not in a ~~good~~ communicative Mood. So we thought that you did not want to tell us anything about your work, your life or anything else-- We understood and respected your privacy. So, no matter what we do, we are wrong! We thought that if we would ask you questions, you would think that we are ~~noisy~~ ^{nosy}! We are simple people, not complicated, we were ^{we} adored by our Parents, who were simple people like us! As for your poems, When we got the book, Dad and me read it, from one end to the other end, Dad even explained to me the meaning of some words that I did not comprehend (I was born in France and did not speak 1 word of English until I was 17!) and it took me years to fully understand English... Not your fabulous English, but the plain common English! Again, I am telling you, no one loves you and is ^{more} proud of you, like we do... and we would be stupid if we did not know that you are successful. God Bless you, Mom, Dad

P.S. Here are more informations.

III

After Jack went back ~~the~~ to the other side and, we didn't hear from him and my Parents, we were terribly worried... We could not write, ~~or~~ nor could they, because letters were ~~not~~ ~~censored~~ censored... Meanwhile, my oldest Brother Hymie said, that we should prepare a place for them. Leon and him went looking away from the Village. They thought that the Gendarmes were looking at us ⁱⁿ a little strange way, we were too many, 7 in 2 rooms! The Gendarmerie (Police station) was located, at the beginning of the main road, it was very small and the doors were constantly opened, most of the time, there was only 2 gendarmes. When we had to go to Le Coteau to get necessary supplies, we would take a dusty secondary road, so to Bypass the Gendarmerie, for we were afraid that they would ask the reason why we were in Perreux... We did prepare ourselves to tell them that we chose to live here, because we might get bombed by the British and Americans, also because

there was no food in Paris. In case of being questioned by them, we would know what to tell them! Hymie found a place (a big shack) for when my Parents would arrive, also for Jack, his fiancée, Fernand and me. Leon & Bouboule would remain with Hymie, his wife and son Charles. Finally, the day came when they arrived, my Parents had lost so much weight for the lack of food, they looked so pale and so frightened... they took the same road and ~~field~~^{Field} like we did... and they did not encounter so many obstacles... Jack heard rumors in Paris that, there might not be a free zone for too long! My Brother's wife started to cook a rabbit with carrots and turnips. She gave my Parents, Jack and his girl, some bread and cheese. That evening, we ate the rabbit for supper, it was a big rabbit and we had pretty good portions! They told us that things were worse than ever in Paris - The Germans

were arresting Jews, young men to go for forced labor, that food was so scarce - that ~~the~~ bread lines were longer than ever... There was lots of Sabotage against the Germans by the Maquis (French Resistance) because of it, the Nazis took hostages in quantities Men & women and shot them in reprisal! The situation was very critical in the Nord, but so far no solutions to end it! everyone prayed and waited for the liberation of France by the Allies. People listened clandestinely to the BBC of London who gave us the real news of the war, General De Gaulle and Prime minister Winston Churchill gave speeches and encouraging words of hope... The Germans war informations were pure lies, claiming victories on all fronts... when they were losing! That night after we ate, Hymie & Leon took my Parents, Jack, his girlfriend Lea, Fernand and Me to the shack. It was still light because of the summer

~~VIII~~

long days, light outside but pretty dark inside... and the smell was horrendous... there was only one tiny window full of spider webs... the floor was dirt, not paved ~~paved~~, just earth! When I entered, I saw lots of straw in a corner, lots of Hay... Leon & Hymie had put it there, for us to sleep on it! They said it was temporary for they would try to get mattresses for us the next day... there was no electricity either... Hymie and Leon went away, before leaving, they said that, they would return in the morning with soap, a basin, a pail to fetch water in from a nearby brook, and also a ~~pet~~ petroleum lamp, matches, food and other necessities. That night we spread the Hay in different corners, we slept with our clothes on, we left the door opened in ~~account~~ account of the terribly stench... It was a miserable way to live but, we were happy to be together and alive! The next

~~VII~~

NearBye

morning, a rooster from a nearby farm woke us up quite early. We got out to look around and, realized that, there was no roads! except a little path that would lead to the main road or ~~as~~ a secondary one. As we had walked that evening going to the shack, we were so involved in conversation with each other that, we didn't realize where we were walking! anyway, we felt much safer being isolated from civilisation, it was a perfect spot, for the moment. With the daylight, we could really see the horror of that shack! it was filthy and pretty depressing... we hoped that we won't have to spend so much time there! Mother said; we have to make the best, that our goal is to survive... and that ~~SURE~~ SURVIVAL ~~is~~ is worth all the inconveniences, the suffering and sacrifices that we have to endure! This shack was very big, it must have been a storage room to store feed for animal farms. We put all the hay together in one corner and put ~~some~~ of

VIII

our meager possessions on it. We waited outside, sitting on the grass that was a little wet from the morning dew... leaning on the walls of the Sahak. Then we saw my 2 brothers and a farmer carrying supplies on a donkey... 3 blankets to put on the hay, 2 pails for water, a ~~ladle~~ ^{LADLE}, 4 old pillows, a wisk broom, a large ^{vitriol} pot for cooking (we stored food in it) 2 old chairs and food, also an oil lamp and matches. The farmer knew my brother Hymie, who had brought some food from his farm. Hymie had seen him in the village, where he was buying some bread. Hymie asked him if he would sell him supplies, he said he had very old stuff, but that the stuff was still useful! they went to his farm and brought the supplies... and they brought it on the back of a donkey.

Dear Blum

I will send you more information in a few days. Dad and I love you.
from Dad

I

September 3 - 93

Dear Alan

I Hope this letter finds you in the best of Health. Dad is fine. I am having some bad Angina lately, the heat + the humidity is hurting me. The Doctor told me that, if the Temperature is over 90 degrees; I should not go out of the House, to stay indoors under air Condition. We know, that it is cool in Frisco, one of the channel gives us the degrees of all the U.S. cities. You had also a lot of Hot days... I Hope your Friend DIANNE will be able to go to Germany with you. It is 4 years we have not seen you. You are always in our heart and thoughts... I hope, that next year, God willing, we will see you. We miss you so very much.

Lots of Hugs & Kisses

Mom, & Dad

P.S. Regards to Dianne

I am continuing to give you more information.

(over)

After Monsieur Boudine the farmer went away with his old ~~mate~~ donkey we covered the Hay with the blankets and the pillows. We ate some of the food, we talked about the progress of the Allies, Hoping that the war would end very soon... When we ~~went~~ ^{went} to sleep that night, we were full of Hope, not knowing what was in store for us, and the end ^{of the war} would not come for years! The next morning, we took the poles ^{to the Brook} and fill them up with water. That day, my older Brother came to see us, ~~with~~ he carried a Newspaper to show us that some Jews had been arrested, not so far from us... It ~~seems~~ ^{seems}, that the Germans were demanding, that Anti-Jewish Laws should be applied in the Free Zone! There was no escape for us... # Marshall Petain who was smile, was losing his power to Laval as head of the French Government... Laval did ~~all~~ everything to please the Nazis. We had gone through Hell, coming to the Free Zone, ~~with~~ which was not so free after all! The question

III

Now was, what should we do now?

Where shall we go? There was an Italian zone in the South of France, the Italian occupants had not bothered the Jewish people, they were against arresting Jews.... many Rich Jews had gone to the Italian zone, to hide there! The Petain and Laval Government had Jurisdiction of that part of France! We had to make plans, to see what could be done.... There was Christian organizations working with Jews passing for Gentiles, they were placing Jewish Kids in Gentile Homes, Farms, Convents. My Parents and older Brothers, were worried about us, the younger children, they decided to get in touch with one organization, to place my younger Brother Bouboule, Fernand and Me. As of Hymie, his wife and child who was 7 years old at the time, decided to leave the Loire and go into hiding in Savoy, in the Alps. The organization took me to a Catholic ~~private~~ boarding school, which was run by the Dominican NUNS.

IV

The school was in ^{the} the Loire region, it was called "Sainte Thérèse de L'Enfant Jésus" (St. Therese of the Child Jesus) it was a large building attached to a Church. It was AUSTERE looking but, very clean. I was not alone going there, there was 5 other Jewish girls with me. Monsieur Levy, who took us there, had told us, that we should not discuss anything on the Train. He had given each of us a small ~~to~~ book to read... of course, everytime we saw a policeman at the Stations we stopped during the trip, ^{we were afraid} we were happy when the train started again... I guess all us girls, had been traumatized by past ~~to~~ events! When we entered the School, the Mother Superior received us with opened arms, she told us not to worry, that God would watch over us, that everything would be all-right. Looking at that kind face, I took a liking to her immediately. Monsieur Levy talked to the Mother Superior for a while, and then he

bid us Goodbye and left. The Mother Superior talked to us, telling us that we ~~we~~ will change our family name and be given French names. We could keep our 1st name. I was called "Marie Dural". Another Nun came to take us to another room, ^{we} ~~we~~ were given clothes, underwear, stockings and berets (sort of a hat, much popular in France) also shoes. The clothes were uniforms, Navy blue skirts, white blouses, navy blue jackets, ~~we~~ stockings and navy blue berets. The shoes were black. To me it was a luxury to have such nice clothes, I had so little to wear and it was practically B.A.C. We were taken to a dormitory and assigned beds, we were told to get washed and dressed and be ready to meet the other girls. After a while, a Nun came in and told us to follow her, we went to a recreation room, where girls were doing homework. The Nun in attendance asked us our names and introduced us to the students, she asked ^{us} what age and grades we were ^{in school?} ~~in school?~~ Living in Paris.

We told her, and she put us on
 different ~~rows~~ benches. She gave
 each of us books, note books, pencils,
 pens, erasers etc... all school supplies.
 We were given also a catechism book
 and a latin book. After a while,
 a Bell rang, we followed the girls
 in the mess-hall, we stood up like
 the others and we prayed, then everyone
 sat down to eat supper. To me, hot
 food was a luxury... Before going to
 bed, we sang a song to the Virgin
 Marie, it said: "Good night my
 dear Mother, bless thy children, recei-
 ve their prayer of thankgrateful hearts,
 it will be to please you, that we shall
 rest, on your Mother's Heart we
 shall fall asleep" I thought about
 my Mother and I wept before going
 to sleep. A few weeks later, the
 Mother Superior called me in, she
 had informations about my fami-
 ly. Monsieur Levy (he had another
 name, calling himself "Leblanc")
 had gotten in touch with her, telling
 that my Parents were in the Italian
 zone, that my Brother Boubaule
 was hiding the FRIARS in

VII

the Loire Region too, that my
Brothers ^{Leon & Ferdinand} were in a youth camp, near
Clairmont Ferrand, not far from
Vichy! she told me that everyone
was safe... so far. The Mother Super-
ior told me that, there will be no
more communications with Levy,
~~at~~ or my Family, until the end of
the war, it was too risky for everyone
concerned... We were at the ~~the~~ end
of September 1942. One of the Jewish
girl's Parents were arrested and put
in a French camp... All the Jewish
girl had gotten information, the
same as me. The days went by
very fast. We were busy with school
work, I was exceptionally good in
Latin and Catechism! also in French
literature (my favorite subject) one
day, as we sat down for Breakfast,
one of the Nuns told us, that the
Germans had occupied the free
zone... that they were in the
town. I could not believe that
it would happen... ^{US} The 6 Jewish
girls, were very worried and felt
unsafe. ~~IA~~ many occasions,
on

VI

some of the Gentiles girls had ~~became~~ become a little suspicious of the 6 of us, asking how come we never took communion?, never had visits from relatives...? no mail either?, we did go to CHURCH¹. We were not too worried, as long there were no Germans, on the other hand, some of the girls Fathers or Brothers, were in the French militia (French Fascists) but being in a Catholic institution, made us feel safe.... but now the situation had changed².... we knew that, if the Germans had occupied the free zone, they had plans to look for Jews! that it would be their first task... When we went to town for ~~at~~ a promenade, as we often did, I saw the German Soldiers and officers, chills went down my spine... I was in total panic... We always sang during our march, ~~this~~ but ~~at~~ this time, I could not ~~utter~~ UTTER a word!

I will continue to write in a few days.

Love you ever
Moms

I

N.M. Bth. Sept 10-93

Dear Dean

How are you? I hope you got all the letters I sent you. By the time you get this letter, it will be ROS-HESHUNA (Jewish New Year) May you have a wonderful New Year, full of good health and Happiness. May God Bless you always.

Love and Kisses

Mom, Dad

I continue with more information
That day, when we came back from the Town, I could not concentrate to do my homework... I told the attendant Nun, that I was sick, that my stomach hurt... I was ^{sent} sent to the Infirmerie, and then to bed. I had supper in Bed that evening, a cereal and cooked fruit. The next morning, after church attendance, the Mother Superior sent for me and another Jewish girl. She told us that she was going to send us back to Mike Levy's place in Boannes, the Mother Superior told us the reason -- it was getting very dangerous for us

II

the six Jewish girls, for the ~~nuns~~
NUNS and for her too... the Germans
were searching for Jews everywhere!
Jews were 1st target for the Ger-
mans... 2nd Target were the ~~the~~
French resistance (Le Maquis)
3rd Target were ~~the~~ Communists!
Mother Superior told us, that per-
haps some girls, whose Fathers
were French Militia, had told
about us... not taking communion
in Church, not having any Visi-
tors or mail! The other girl and
I, understood the situation... we
cried a lot! She also told us, that
she was going to tell the other Jewish
girls - 2 by 2. She had sent a letter
to M^r Levy (Monsieur Le Blanc)
She had written to him, telling him
that we were not well... that we
were going to come home... before
we left to eat our Breakfast,
she blessed us and kissed us,
she told us, that she will pray for
our safety... When Lydia and me
entered the dining room, the girls
looked at us ~~strangely~~ STRONGLY

III

Perhaps they thought, that we had been reprimanded. After Breakfast, some of the Girls asked us, what happened? we told them that we were going back to Paris, our Parents wanted us back home! A few days later, we met with the Mother Superior, she told us, to get ready for the Train ride, that she would send a Nun to take us to the Station, and when the Train arrived, the Nun would give us the tickets... the other ^{Jewels} girls, would also go that way, 2 By 2 in the next few days. She told us, to be dressed in our school outfits... it will be safer! Since these outfits were worn by students of Catholic School! we were given M^r Leblanc's address in Provannes, and told not to talk to anyone! That in times like this, not all enemies wore uniforms... we were given a small basket with Bread and apples to eat on the train, also VITAMIN CRACKERS, hard as a rock! Lydia and I, arrived at the Station with the

IV

the Nun. At the Station, there were a lot of German Soldiers and officers. The Nun told us that, in case the Train was searched by Germans at some stations, if they asked us who we were, and where we were going? to Tell them that we were sisters, going to Proaines to visit with our Parents... After the Train arrived, the Nun put us on it, she said Goodbye and left. We were supposed to be Lydia and Marie ~~DUAL~~ DUAL! It was very cold in the Train, we were in the Month of November, around the middle of November 1942. We were in a compartment with 2 Men and a young girl of about 18 or 19 years of age, she was extremely pretty and dressed beautifully. Lydia was 14 years ^{OLD} ~~old~~ and I was 12 1/2 years old. We both were blondes with Blue eyes, and very Aryan looking... so we thought that it would help us be safe on the Tigs. We traveled a while, and then, the train stopped at a

Station, some people came in the
 train, some went off. Lydia and
 I ate some food. The young
 woman asked us from what
 school we came from? we told her
 the name of the school. She told us
 that she had gone to a catholic
 school too... in another Region.
 Then the train stopped at a station
 it was Le Coteau. We knew that
 Boannes was not far... we felt
 a sense of relief! most of the trip
 was done, in a little while, we
 would be in Mister Lery's place.
 I was thinking, where will Mr. Lery
 send us to hide? What will happen
 to us? did Lery hear from our
 Parents? Were our Parents and
 Brothers alive? Will we ever see
 them again? a thousand questions
 filled my head... I had an urge
 to cry, but did not... I was scared
 to find out! I feared the worst
 but hoped for the best... We finally
 arrived in Boannes, we asked
 one of the station employee to tell
 us how to get to this address.

IV

he told us that it was not too far... he explained to us, how to get there? we followed his instructions, ~~to~~ it was not easy to find... we had to ask again... we went into a wine store, the storekeeper showed us, how to get there? we arrived in front of a very old building that ~~was~~ was only 3 floors - We went up to the 2nd floor, we ^{knocked} ~~knocked~~ at the door where the name LEBLANC was written... a young woman let us in, she was Mrs. Levy. Her husband came out of another room to welcome us, happy that we were safe! he asked us about the trip, if there were any stops that Germans got ~~at~~ on the train, to ask people for their papers... we told him that we had not seen any Germans asking for papers to anyone! that there were many Germans on the train and also some French Militia!

Dear Son
I will continue in a few days. Take good care of yourself.
Regards to DANNIE. Love, Mom

I
Dear Son

I hope that you are well. Last night, we were invited in Sonia's house for Rosabiana. Lou and Sonia are wonderful kids, they have 2 beautiful babies that we adore! When we are ready to go home, the oldest one (Kevin, nearly 3 years) wants to go home with us... he adores your father. My Nephew Charles, and his wife Annie, are coming to visit Miami & Family, they'll be here in a few days. I thank God, that I have family here... otherwise, we would be alone! Family is very sacred ^{to} me, I am very Family oriented.

Dear Dean, what's doing with you? your work? if you have the time, write me a few words, I love to read you. Dad and I, always talk about you, because we miss you so much...

We are so proud of you, of what you are accomplishing in your life-time. It is much harder to write Poetry, than to write ^{BOOKS & STORIES}! you have done both! you have been a ~~so~~ very young EDITOR! not ~~many~~ ~~many~~

II

many people have done that! and
To think that we are your Parents...
it's a great feeling! When I heard
of a Neighbor, who has a Son
a Doctor, and brags about him,
I told her, that my Son is a Poet,
an author and ~~a~~ Editor, that's
being creative... especially, when
I find out, that he is a Chiroprac-
tor! What hurts, is that you are so
far away... Take good care of your-
self. I pray to God, that with
this New Year, my Children, Husband
and Grandchildren, also, my rela-
tives, should all be well! Most im-
portant, Good health and Happiness.

Let God inscribe us in the Book
of Life. I have had a lot of ~~bad~~
BDD days, health wise. I am fighting
the battle of Time, also the battles
of my illnesses, it is not easy, I
try to ~~the~~ keep a good humor about
it, for when you smile, the whole
world smiles with you, but when you
cry, you cry alone... Just like a
song, I heard. I finish my letter,
Sending you a billion kisses. Mom, Dad

III

He gave more information of our war GARD.

After M^r Lery (LeBlanc) asked us all kind of questions about the school, the trip, how we felt during the time we spent at school? We told him that school had been a blessing, the ~~MONKS~~ NUNS had been wonderful to us, sympathetic about our plight. We had ^{NEVER} been so secure since the Nazis' occupation. Now, we were scared and uncertain of our future, that it looked grim. I asked him about my Parents and Brothers, if he had heard of any of them lately? he said that he would get in touch with my Parents, through an organization in the South of France, that was occupied by the Italian Army. As of Lydia's Parents, they had been deported, he would have to place her in a farm, not in the Loire Region which was ~~overrun~~ OVERUN by German troops and French collaborators. There was a 4 year old boy hiding in Lery's home, a beautiful child

IV

with huge brown eyes and dark curly hair, his name was Michel. The child had been given ^{to the LEVYS} by his parents, so that he could be placed with Christians, so that he would be safe, he had been there 10 days, and so far, 'had not been placed' -- his parents went in the French ~~the~~ UNDERGROUND to fight the Boches Boches. That night, we slept on 2 cots. During the night, a car with the siren so loud, stopped brusquely in a scratching noise, we recognized the sound of that siren, it was a Gestapo CAR! We had heard plenty of them before. M^r Levy and his wife came in our room, carrying little Michel that asleep in her arms. They did not put the light on -- they put Michel on one of the cot, they told us, to not to speak or make any noise -- Levy look out very carefully at the corner of one of the ~~the~~ windows, we heard German voices screaming ^{the} loudly, we heard the car's door slamm^{ing} very hard and the

V
~~AM~~

departure of the car. 2 Men had been arrested, just a few yards away from our building, they were Maquisards, who had been denounced by other French traitors, they had been hiding in an apartment, the owner of the flat was also a resistance fighter, he luckily was not there, at the time he had remained in the woods with the Partisans! The Germans had found GUNS, hand Grenades rifles ect. - a real arsenal. Those poor fellows were doomed... and would be tortured for informations. When Levy went out the next day, he had gotten all the informations from neighbors, cursing the NAZIS... The Concierge of the building, who had 2 Sons in the Maquis, said that, if she was younger, she would join the Résistance! to Kill all the Boettes... That day, in the afternoon, 2 other Jewish girls arrived at Levy's House from the school, they were so happy to see us. They told us, that the other 2 girls would

VI

arrive the next day. We also heard from the girls, that there was a check up by the Germans on the train, they had asked for identity papers, and they arrested a very old couple. The girls being young children of 10 & 11 years old, had not been asked anything, being dressed in uniforms from a catholic school, had helped the situation... they had been terribly frightened, but they had had the good sense of control, they had been laughing between them, making believe that they were telling jokes... With the emotion they encountered ~~on~~ during the trip and had been forced to hide, they suddenly started to cry. Mr. Levy & wife comforted them, telling them that one day, little children will play again, pick flowers, sing songs, and be free from tyranny... The next day, the last 2 girls arrived from the school. They told us that there was no incidents on the train, everything was smooth! the day before their departure, one of the pupils had asked

the 10 years old Jeanine, if she was Jewish, she told her that, what would I be doing in a catholic school if I were Jewish? She told us, that she was glad to have left the school... It was not safe anymore! The Lenz's started to get in touch with several organizations that worked with them through all of France. We were 6 girls and 1 little boy, M^r & Mrs. Lenz gave their bed for 3 girls to sleep on it, the younger girls, the 3 older girls would sleep on chairs, put together, 2 chairs per girl... M^r Lenz on a cot, Mrs. Lenz on a cot with little Michel. We were not allowed to go out, or look out the window. If someone would knock at the door, we would have to go in one of the bedrooms, and close the door. The food was scarce, we had very little to eat, the milk was for Michel. One night as we ate at the table, M^r Lenz told us, that our Parents were coming to get us, except Lydia's Parents who had been deported. Christmas was very near, the French people were

P.S. in a few days,
I will write again. Mom

getting ready for the Holydays, we would read in the Newspaper, about the purchase of toys for their children, and some of the goodies available. For us, the Jewish children, there was only hunger, fear, deprivation and separation from our loved one... Why were we punished? Why did the Germans, and French fascists, hate us so much? I felt like, being Jewish, was a stigma! a humiliation... a pain, yet I knew that most of my people were good, decent, hard working, who loved their Family, & who had the highest moral code. So why was this happening to us? We, Jewish children, had aged beyond our years... we were not children anymore, we were little adults... our childhood had been taken away from us... we ~~would~~ would never be children again! After several days, a couple took Michel away, they were so young and very nice, they had relocated to another town for safety measure. Michel cried bitter tears, and so did we... The next day, after Michel was taken away, one of the girls parents took her away. Dear Sean, lots of hugs. Mom Dad

P.S. our best regards
to Dianne I
Mum

Miami Beach, Sept. 26-93

Dear Alan

I received your most welcome letter. It is a wonderful letter, it lifted my moral! Dad loved it so much, and so did I! I agree wholeheartedly with what you wrote in this letter, especially about the irony of ~~my~~^{the} persecutors of my childhood, their descendants paying you - it's incredible! Yesterday, was YOM Kippur, I litened 9 YOR-seit glasses for our dear departed ones, Dad's, and my family, that we lost during our 42 years together, ABNOA being the latest... It was a sad day & for us, and for all the Jewish people in the world... I ~~no~~ said a prayer for the 6 millions that died in the Holocaust. I am glad that Dianne is going with you to Germany, it will be like a vacation & a business combined. Well my dear Son, take good care of yourself. Despite all the obstacles and problems, life is still a great gift, that God gave us, a very precious gift, that we must appreciate and keep for a long time. We love you very much. Lots of hugs & kisses. Mommy & Dad

HOLOCAUST

II

CONTINUATION
of more information

The rest of the girls and I waited impatiently for our Parents to fetch us... Several days later, my Parents arrived, I could not believe it, that, they were smiling at me as they extended their arms to embrace me. Seeing the other girls faces covered with envy, I told them that their Parents would come too, very soon, but in my Heart, I ~~was~~ wasn't sure if I was giving them false hope... IN those terrible times, anything could happen... We all sat at the Table, listening to my Father talking to M^r Levy. He told him, that a check up on the train had occurred, ~~at~~ ^{DURING} a stop in a Town. My Father had seen the Germans and French Militia at the Station, he ^{THROUGH THE WINDOW} heard one of the Germans say, that they were ready to go on the train... to check the Passengers. My Father, who spoke fluently German, had understood. He told my Mother, speaking very low in Yiddish, so that the other passengers would not understand, to follow him. Once they were in the Corridor of the train, they went in the

III

bathroom, not locking the door, so that the outside lock, would read "not ~~occupied~~ occupied" the Germans by passed it, thinking that no one was in there... that's how my ~~Witty~~ Dad and my Mom, made it safely! M^r Levy wrote down the name of the town, ^{that} the authorities searched the Trains. Mrs. Levy made coffee, not real coffee, it was made of burnt Grain, she served it with bread and a Jam, that she would serve for special occasion. That afternoon, we left the Levy's home, I was happy to go, but sad to leave my friends and the Levy's, I had become very fond of them, they risked their lives, to save Jewish children, they were kind and devoted to each other and to the kids in hiding. Before we left them, M^r Levy told my Dad, that they would relocate, to another address, because they feared that some of the neighbors, would see too many different people and children entering their places... he said that the organisation would know where to find him, because, he was always

IV

in France with them, were supplied him with Clutchers, to be placed. We went to the Station, where my Dad bought tickets for us, to go to the City of Grenoble, under the Italian authorities. My Parents Told me, that the Italians, ignored the orders of the French (Laval Government) To arrest the Jews of the region.... My Parents said, they had found a room, in a tiny Alpine town, that was located on the highest Mountain, where they were Sanitariums for the people with TUBERCULOSIS. This VILLAGE's name was called "ST. HILAIRE DU TONNET" Some of my relatives, an uncle, Aunt and 2 Cousins, were hiding in the same Village. I asked my Parents, what did they do for money? they told us that there was an underground Jewish Committee, that helped the Jews in Hiding. This Committee not only gave money, they also gave informations and advices for survival. I had put on the clothes (UNIFORM for from the Catholic School) for the TRAIN TRIP.

~~THE~~ V

it was

It was very cold, the end of December 1942. Inside the TRAIN STATION, was as cold as the outside. My Mother had a large bag, like a small valise, she opened it, and found a shawl, that I put around my shoulders, ~~over~~ my jacket. We had a long wait for the train. There was quite a lot of people. My Parents did not talk a word between them, they had a very Polish accent. When I heard the sound of the train, I was the 1st one to get up from the bench. We got on the train, we ~~for~~ wanted to sit near the Bath-room in case of a check up of the Passengers. My Parents told me to sit across them, they said, that in case of an arrest, I should not cry or scream, to stay calm, that I ~~was~~ should continue the trip to St. Gilles du Tour. They had given me ~~the~~ some money and the name of a café in the village, that ~~would~~ the owner, would take me to my relatives, who were friends with the owner, who hosted the Boches, because his older Brother had been a Soldier, and was killed in the war in 1940. His older Brother, had

VI

Been in charge of the Café, after Their FATHER'S Death. Now, the younger Brother was in charge of the business and a sick Mother, who never got over her oldest son's death, she became very ill as a result. I thought, that if my Parents were arrested, I would not want to go on myself. After travelling for hours, the train stopped at the same Town, where the AUTHORITIES checked the passengers on the train, that my Parents had taken to come to Roumes, to fetch me. My Parents got up, I followed a minute later, they were in the bathroom hiding, I went in and closed the door, I did not lock it, on the outside, it read "UNOCCUPIED". The Germans were searching the whole train you could hear their too loud voices. We heard the screams of a woman, we waited and waited, my Father who had a bad heart, was as pale as a ghost. When the train started to roll again, it was the most wonderful noise I had heard in my life! We had fooled the Germans

VII

again! I think that God ~~is~~ was
our ALLY. When we arrived in Bre-
nobles, coming off the Train, I
saw the first Italian Soldiers, with
feathers on their hat, they had green
uniforms. Most of them looked
so kind, I did not fear them at
all! even the French population
seemed so relaxed! compare to the
Zone occupied by the Nazis, it was
like NIGHT and day, like a dream
and NIGHTMARE! Father did not
want to take the bus, to go to the
Village, instead, we took the
Féminaire, it's a special Train that
has a rail line ^{ON THE VALLEY OF THE MOUNTAIN}, it takes you straight
up ~~the~~ ^{the} Mountain, instead of rolling
on the ground, this TRAIN goes
up STRAIGHT on the Mountain, from
the bottom to the top. It was kind
of scary for me, I had never taken
that kind of transportation... It was
very quick. We arrived at the Vill-
age, HUNGRY and exhausted. My Aunt
Tobélet had left some food on the
table for us, Mother had left her
our keys, in case we did not return.

END OVER

I am finishing now. I want you to know, that I am happy about ^{you} writing a book, about being a child of a survivor. With the informations I have given you and will continue to give you, you can have 2 fabulous books! Don't underestimate yourself, you happen to have a fantastic gift for writing! Remember, that one of your English Teacher, told you, that your writing, was in the style of Hemingway! Your compositions as a child, were hanging on the walls of the Classroom. Now about writing for the best ~~story~~ STORY in college! you have at your disposition, so much informations, that combined with your Talent of writing, will be nice books. I have great faith in you. I have a feeling, that you will give to the literary world, 2 Masterpieces. Some writers, ~~wrote~~ wrote wonderful books, when they were much older than you... you are only 41, that's young yet, you are a known good poet.

Love, Mom & Dad

I

Miami Oct. 3 1993

Dear Son

I hope this letter will find you in the best of health. I had a very bad cold, I ached all over, when a diabetic gets a cold, it's like the Flu for others... I feel better now. Charlie and Annie came to visit Miami and family, they took a nice cruise to Alaska. What's new with you? Dad and I can't wait to go to Frisco, to see you! We hope to go there around next June. How is your book coming along? I know, you are doing a great job. I am sending you hugs and kisses, so does Dad.

We love you very much, we always think of you.

A billion kisses

Mom & Dad

I continue with the informations of the war.

The new year arrived, it was 1943. We hoped that the war would end that year. My Aunt Tobele told my Parents, that there was

II

a clandestine Jewish community, helping the Jews in Ben Grenobles. The next day, my uncle Maurice (Tobele's husband) took my Father and me to Grenobles, we ~~went~~ ^{went} with the bus. Maurice had told us, that many Jews had come to the Italian zone, after the occupation of Nazis into the free zone! My Parents ~~then~~ knew that, because they had come, before many other people, even before my relatives, who had arrived just a few weeks before my Parents left, to fetch me. My cousin Lucienne (we called her Lulu) had also come along with us and, during the trip, she told me, that she had not been to school at all, for 1 year, I told her that, having been hiding with the NUNS had it's advantages, I had learned Latin, ^{I had} French, old and new, math, social studies, religion, arts, cooking, ^{SEWING} ~~sawing~~, literature. We laughed about all the time, we will be missing School!... I was quite pessimistic, I told her, not to worry about education, in these uncertain times, that ~~we~~ ^{we} might not survive the war... let's concern

that on survival, that it was
 a challenge... not to give up on life,
 if it was possible... We arrived to
 a house, quite dilapidated, we went
 down a basement, my ~~the~~ Uncle
 knocked 3 times in a row, somebody
 opened the door to let us in, and quick-
 ly closed it, & many people were seated
 on chairs, some little children sitting
 on their mothers' laps, some young girls
 and young men, also some old people.
 I noticed that it was not very bright
 in the room. There were 2 men
 and a ~~woman~~ woman, sitting ~~on~~ ^{at} ~~by~~
 a table, with scattered papers all over
 it. The woman asked my Dad his
 name, have many people in hiding?
 in his family? Then she told us to
 sit down and wait for our turn to
 be interviewed. One young man, told
 my Uncle, that a large movement
 of the Maquis (underground) had been
~~been~~ recruiting Jewish young men
 and Jewish girls, that he was joining
 to. ^{He said} Things were going bad here
 too... many Jews had been arrested
 by French Militia... entire families

He told us that with little children. In one small town, an informer had denounced French people who ran an Institution for children, they had many Jewish children, who were orphaned by the deportation of their Parents. The Jewish children, had been hiding in this Institution, mixed ~~with~~ with the gentile kids. One morning, the French militia came to the Institution, they had a list with all the Christian children's names. They selected the children's, who's names were not on the list, they started to take out the children in a truck, they practically threw them in... like you throw garbage... they were small tykes, 3-4-5-6 years old. They ~~also~~ arrested the woman in charge, also ~~a~~ helper. A gardener saw ~~the~~ the all thing, he could not believe, that French Police were so cruel, the poor kids were crying, they were calling ~~for~~ Maman (mother) Later on, the cook had told, that all the children and the 2 women, had been deported. When I heard this

V

story, I knew that the Germans were killing us... What other reasons would they have, to arrest babies? My Mother had known all the time... what was in store for the Jews... She had often said, that there was a PLAGUE, it was called NAZISM, that it would kill us all, if the war did not end soon! My Father had heard the story of the children, there was tears in his eyes. Finally, my Father was called by one of the men, sitting at the table. ~~He~~ He asked him, all kind of questions, He asked if there was any children, my Dad called me over, he told the man, that I was his daughter, when he presented me to him. After the questioning, Father was given money, we were also given a choice of clothes which did not fit any of us! We were so thin... Father & Mother, fixed all of the clothes to fit us perfectly, they were Taylor & Seamstress by trade. We were more than happy, to be able to change our clothes, more often. It was very cold in the

Mountains, and we were grateful for warm clothes! When we came back, my Aunt Tobele and her son François were waiting, together with my Mom, in our room. They were relieved to see us back. We were bombarded with a million questions: 'were they Militia in town?', 'did the Italian soldiers asked for papers?' 'Were we followed?' As for the Militia, we had seen only 2, walking with not so nice girls, busy in their ^{own} adventures. As for the Italian soldiers, they could not care less about asking for papers... they were regular army soldiers, most of them ^{known} fascists, many were frustrated with the German policy and the war... Father told the story, about the children of the Institution, after that, there was great silence in the room... no words were said, but the expression on my relatives faces, said it all... fright, fear, despair and no hope were showing on their faces... That night, I had a terrible nightmare, I saw little children, being thrown in the air... they looked like dying

VII

Angels. I woke up and looked through the window. My Mother woke up, and came near me, asking me if I was not feeling well. I Told her about my nightmare, also that our life was similar to ~~the~~ ^{my} nightmare... and how long will we have to live this way? François, his sister Lucienne and myself were teen-agers, that we had a right to continue our studies, go to parties, enjoy life and, that little children should grow up with their Parents taking care of them! Mother Told me that God would save the Jewish people very soon, from the clutches of the Nazis, I wanted to believe it, with all my ~~Heart~~ heart, but, deep inside, I could not make me believe it! We had gone through ~~hell~~ ⁱⁿ hell, since the German boots, walked on the soil of France. The arrests, the anti-Jewish laws, the Hunger, the luddings, crossing the demarcation line and most of all the fear... the constant fear... and not knowing when it will end? and how it will end? for all of us? I went back to bed and slept late

that morning from mental exhaustion! That day, we met another couple in Hiding, they were very young and very much in love, the wife was expecting a child in the spring. The Parents of the ~~boy~~ HUSBAND, had been deported, the girl's Mother was hiding in Lyons, her Father had died just before the war. They took a liking to my Parents and came to see us often. We lived day by day, observing the news in the papers, following the Allies ~~pro-~~ war progress, and with every little victory, a new ~~to~~ hope would ~~awaken~~ AWAKEN in us! Once in a while, we would hear about arrests of Jews, and French maquisard (underground) ~~who~~ who had committed sabotage against the Italian occupants. Even though life was very hard, not enough food, no coal or wood to warm us, not much ~~free~~ freedom, we were thankful, for ~~every~~ every day that we survived. We had to keep a very low profile for our benefit.

Dear Alan

I end it now until next time.

Love you always. Mom & Dad

I

Dear Son

Hope all is well with you. Here everything is the same, no changes at all. The weather is still hot as Hell, we are waiting anxiously for cooler ~~the~~ days.... What is new with you? Next month, you are going on a big trip. The years are going so fast... Grandi' is going on 15! I can't believe it! Dad and I are getting old... Trying to be around a little longer! We watch our diet and Take VITAMINS, the rest, is up to God. Here are some more informations.

We love you

P.S. Lots of 1 billion Hugs & Kisses
Regards to Dianne Mom & Dad

One day, in early Sept of 1943, my Father and I went to Bresoblen, to the organization that gave us help with money. As soon as we came in, we remarked that something had happened... there was only 1 man sitting at the desk, no papers on the table... only 1 family a Father, Mother and small boy boy waiting to get their money. The man at the

IT

desk, told us to sit down and wait. A few minutes later, the Man called the Father, wife and small boy to the desk. He gave the money to the Husband, he told him, that the organization was dissolved, that it was the last time he would get his money, that it was opened for 3 days only, to give help to a few more people, after that, he said, that he was going to ^{into} hiding, or join the underground movement, that ~~was~~ ^{ever} become quite active these days... lots of sabotage against the Italian Troops. We were given the money due to us, the Man said, you heard the story and, the reasons why, you did not hear. It seems that General Badoglio, commander of the ~~Armed~~ Italian armed forces, had gotten in touch with the Allied forces in July, to join them, and fight against the Germans. ~~He~~ ^{had} said that, Mussolini had been arrested and put in Prison, that General Badoglio, had brought back King Emmanuel of Italy ^{from Exile} for a little while the General & the King took over

III

the Government. The Allies were in the South of Italy, fighting Italians and German troops. The Man told us, that the Italian troops will be leaving the South of France, any day now... and the Nazis, would come to occupy. The 4th Italian Army had already ~~come~~ ^{started} sending troops out of Nice, Cannes, the French Riviera etc... back to Italy. Many Italian soldiers and officers, had deserted the army, they joined the French Maquis to fight against the Nazis, whose policy of killing Gypsies and Jews, had never been accepted by them. Only the BLACK SHIRT fascists had the same policy... they were, at times, worse than the Nazis.... My Father, was really scared and worried, he asked the Man where could we hide? there was no more places to run to anymore... he asked, how long will it be until the Germans would arrive in our Region? He told him, perhaps a week or 2 or 3, but no longer than that... he said, of course the Nazis first priority, will be arresting the Jews in masses... and deport

V

To Italy. He said that some Jews, had already done that. Telling us, that we could get a Frenchman To drive us to Italy. He gave us the name of a Frenchman, who had helped the organization, when they needed him! The family, ~~with~~ which was there, were interested in going too. The Father of the little boy, told us that he could get more people, to come along in the truck, that among all of us, we could pay the driver, each of us dividing the amount to be ~~pay~~ paid. My Dad thought it was an excellent idea! My Father, and the little boy's Dad, made an arrangement to get Foguether, where a few Jewish Families, scattered around the hills of Grenoble, were hiding. The small boy's Dad said, that he would get in touch with them and layout the Plan, he told my Dad, To come to his place in 2 days, and meet the other people, and perhaps we would be able, to leave in 2 weeks! My Father took his address, he told him that we ~~would~~ would go to the Driver's House, and tell him about our plan. The man of the organization, wished us good luck, we thanked him for the suggestion he gave us.

VI

we wished him good Luck too, all of us shook hands, and we parted... We did not know, how we would ^{get} to the driver's place? because of the Militia, we did not want to take public Transportation. A Lady who was walking her dog, told us that it was far, so far for her, to give us the right directions! we walked a couple streets further away, we asked a café owner, if he could help us, with some directions, he was a very friendly Man, inviting us in the café. He told us to sit down at the table, we ordered a drink, while he brought Foguettes with a book under his arm. The book had maps and names & NUMBERS of the streets in Genoa and Suburbia, I asked him, if he could get me a paper and a pencil, so that I could write down the directions. It was very far and we had to walk and walk quite a lot... it took us nearly 2 Hours of walking, before we arrived at the driver's address. It was a small building, very clean with well kept lawn, his apartment was on the ground floor, we found it immediately. We knocked at

VII

the door, a few minutes later, a woman opened the door, she looked at us with a kind of worried look... she asked us ~~we~~ ^{with} whom we wanted to see, we told her ~~his~~ ^{her} name, she told us to wait a moment and ^{then} closed the door.... After a while, she came back, opening the door, and telling us to come in. When we entered the room, a young man, in his early thirties, we assumed, came over, and shook hands with us. He asked us to sit down, he wanted to know how we got his address. My Father told him, about the man of the organization, he seemed very relieved! He introduced the lady, as his wife, he told her to close the window, and pull the drapes together, he said that we could not make any change with the neighbors. The Man's name was JEAN-CLAUDE, he was short, but very robust, he told us, that ~~we~~ we must be Jewish and in hiding, we told him the truth, we also told him, the reason we came to his place, he listened carefully, talked with his wife in the kitchen. A while

VIII

later, they both came back in the room. Jean-Claude told my FATHER, that his truck was very large, but not large enough to accomodate so many people, my Dad told him, that we could see for ourselves, that he could come with us in 2 days, so he could make all the necessary arrangements, how many people could be seated, and we could discuss the price of for the trip. Jean-Claude ask us, if we ~~were~~ came by public TRANSPORTATION, we told him, that we walked! He offered to take us in his truck, to the Fernetaire station, we were more than glad and grateful by his offer! We bid Good Bye to his wife, and we left with him, He seated us inside of the truck, in the back, it was safer this way. When we arrived at the station, he told us, that he would pick ~~up~~ us up in 2 days, at a certain hour, to take us, to the family's place. He told us, that it was far, he said we should take the earliest Fernetaire, we inquired about the schedule ~~it~~ for an early departure. He told us the hour, more or less, that he would pick us up — Love Mom & Dad

I

N. M. Beth. Oct. 16 - 93
Sep

Dear Blain

How are you? Here we are ok. As always, we miss you. Every Month that passes by, I'm counting ~~all~~ have many Months, I have left, to come to see you! How is your work? Very soon, you will be on your way to Europe with Dianne. I wish you the best, I pray that you will have a very nice trip and a safe one. I know that it will be successful. Take good care of yourself. Be well.

We Love you,
Mom & Dad

Here are some informations again, after your - Claude left, my ~~my~~ Dad and I didn't have to wait too long for the ferriculaire, it arrived in a few minutes. My Father was anxious to be home, he wanted to tell my Mother and relatives, about the planning of our departure for Italy. When we arrived home, my Mother, my aunt Tobele and my cousin Lulu, were at home, waiting for our return. Seems, that they heard

II

news, from a French Lady, who heard on her Radio, that the Germans were coming any day, to occupy the South of France. Father told my Mother, not to worry, that we made some arrangements, to ~~follow~~ follow the Surrounding Italian Troops, who will fight ~~at~~ with the Allies, against the Germans. He told her all about Jean-Claude, he told her the all story! Mother was not so sure, that it was safe, to go with Troops, that might have to fight the Nazis, in case of ~~an~~ an encounter... My Aunt said, that she will not take such a chance... my Dad said, there is nowhere to ~~go~~ go to hide, at least we could be protected by the Italians, if we went away with them, also, if we could reach the South of Italy, we could be liberated by the Americans fighting there... if we stood in St. Hilaire-du-Touvet, we could be denounced by some informer... The Germans would arrive very soon... in reality, we had not much choice. My relatives decided not to go to Italy, instead, they would move somewhere else and take

III

a chance, by moving constantly, from village to village. That was a good plan for them, they were full of jewelry and money, they took ~~with~~ with them. When they left Paris, before the big round up & masses arrests of the Jews, they did not get arrested... ever! As for us, we were broke most of the time, and now, there would be no more ~~help~~ financial help for us... The money, that had been given to my Dad, by the organization, was the last he^w would get. Father was happy, that he could pay Jean-Claude, for the trip, we would still have some left to live on, for a while. Mother said, if ~~nessa~~ necessary, they could sell their wedding ~~bands~~ rings and a watch that my Brother ~~Tate~~ Jacques gave to my Dad. It was definitely decided that my ~~best~~ Parents and I would leave as soon as everything would be ready. The next day, before lunch, we heard a loud knock on the door, my Dad did not know, whether he should open it or not... he was so pale, that I was afraid he would collapse... then we heard

a very familiar voice saying, it's me Leon, open the door! I could see the relief in my Parents eyes! my Dad opened the door, there, stood both my Brothers, they were carrying 2 small bags. They came in and we embraced my Mom had tears in her eyes! They sat down and told us, that they heard, that the Germans were going to send all the young Men, that were ~~in~~ working in the youth Group, to work in ~~E~~ Ammunition Factories, in Germany. Several of the young Jewish boys, had gotten together, to discuss the situation... they could not be protected anymore, if they were sent to Germany. These French administrators of the youth Group, who were looking after the Jewish boys, were leaving, they were scared and went into hiding.... it was a death penalty, to hide Jews. My Brothers, Fernand & Leon, had saved some money from their pay, they travelled by bus, they took a few different buses, also walking in between rides, to avoid checking points of larger cities. They had been on the go for 2 1/2 days, before

IV

arriving here. We sat down for lunch and Father told them about our plan to go to Italy, they were all for it, they said, that they had seen many Jews arrested, entire families, the Region of Clairmont-Fernand, where they were in the younger group, had so many collaborators, that would help the Germans, in their hunting of Jews and foreigners too... also the Underground (the Maquis) The Nazis were the HUNTERS, their favorite prey, were the Jews, we were their prey... My Brothers, wanted to go with my Dad, to make arrangements for our departure, my Dad refused, because 3 men, could get the attention of the Militia. So the next day, my Father and I, went to Grenoble to meet with Jean-Claude.

At the Fernand station when we arrived, he was not there yet, we were waiting impatiently for a while, then we saw him! He greeted us and told us to sit in the back of the truck, it was safer, it was covered. When we arrived at the place of the family we had befriended, at the

help organization, he was waiting for us
 near the door, he told us, that there were
 a few men, there in his apartment, they
 came without their families, because it
 was safer with less people... We had
 told Jean-Claude, about the arrival of
 my 2 Brothers, now we would need
 5 places for our Family. The Men talked
 about the number of their families,
 they said that, the little children could
 sit on their Mother's laps, or even on their
 Fathers laps. A lot of talking went on!
 Finally, Jean-Claude said, I can not
 take more than 20 people with the
 children included... We were going to be
 5 people in our Family - 3 people in our
 Friend's family - 1 couple + a teen-age son
 making 3 people more, then there were 2 more couples
 with 5 small children among these 2 ~~for~~
 Families + 1 middle age ~~couple~~ woman
 with one teen-age daughter who were
 related to our Friend. We were 22 people.
 Jean-Claude said, ~~we~~ ^{you} will be packed like
 Sardines! He made a very reasonable
 price for the trip. All the arrangements
 were made, he gave us 5 days to get
 ready.

I shall continue in a few days
 lots of hugs - Love, Mom & Dad

P.S. Our best
regards to
Dianne
Mom

I

N.M. Beth Oct. 21-93

Dear Blau

Dad and I were very happy, to speak
on the phone with you! We are
glad that you feel good, that you are
happy. Dad brought me a little ra-
dio, it has a tape recorder, we brought
some old cassettes, old time songs, it
plays very nice, if you have time, send
me a copy of your tape, I could learn
to meditate, I am sure, it would
help me! I am confirming with
the story. Take care, be well and
God Bless you. Hugs & Kisses.

Love,

Mom & Dad

Jean - Claude said good-bye to the
people, and took us back to the station
for our return home. He made plans
and told us and the people, that we
would meet at a certain deserted
place, in the early afternoon.
He said; the best way would be
not to take any valises, just
a bag with ~~toiletry~~ Toiletry
Items, combs, tooth brushes,

Took paste, a towel and one set
 of change for my family members,
 he told us to wear sweaters and
 jackets, that it would be very cold
 at night, ~~going~~ travelling through
 the mountains. We were Veterans,
 or knowing what to take with
 us --- we had done it before ---
 we had arranged the day, even the
 hour, we were not supposed to be
 together, ^{wasn't} only each family, we
 would have to distance us from
 the others, but not too far --- he
 would pick us up, one at the time
 the price was mentioned to, ^{family} and
 every one had agreed to it, &
 it ~~was~~ was a fair price! The
 question was; were we going to
 make it? was it realistic to
 undertake such trip? going to a
 place, where we knew no one! an
 enemy of the Germans --- would ~~some~~
 some faithful fascist; tell on us?
 We did not speak or understand
 Italian --- with all these fears, there
 was a ray of hope! with Italian troops
 joining the Allies in the South of

III

Italy, they could liberate all of Italy, and it would be the end of the war for us. We returned home, and we told my brothers of the plan. We all agree, that it was the best solution for us, under those circumstances... We would take with us some bread for the trip, it would be a long voyage, we would have to survive a few obstacles... but then this was nothing new to us, the persecuted, we had done it for 3 years... perhaps, we did not have the strength to overcome all that, that was befalling us, but we sure had the stubbornness and the strong will to survive, despite all the troubles and sacrifices that came our way. The day came for our departure, Mother and I prepared the 2 bundles, we packed very fast, for there was hardly anything to pack... We left a note with the keys, to the man who had rented ^{us} the room, we wrote that we were returning to Paris. The room had not been big enough for us, but it had been our home.

IV

For a while, we had felt safer than anywhere else! The French underground, were all over those Mountains, the Italian occupants, had not participated in rounding up Jews, if, and when, some arrests had been made, it was done by the French police, who had been tipped off by some informants. We ~~to~~ had been very discreet and not very visible, during the times we were hiding it had been very hard for us the children, we were Teen-agers now but, we ~~were~~ had become adults, before our time! We knew very well, that our life was at stake every minutes, we were disciplined by life... by being alert, days in days out... it ~~would~~ ^{would} be the only way for us, to continue to live! My relatives, came to say good-bye, my Aunt Fabele had brought us some bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen hard boiled eggs, a piece of hard cheese; she had brought, on the black market! She was in tears and said that she would pray for us, if we all survived, we would meet in

V

Paris after the war, we promised, that we would do all that, if possible, to meet her one day in Paris! We went away earlier than we needed to, my Father and Brother Leon, would sit together on the Fenou-laine, my Mother, Brother Fernand and I would sit somewhere else.

When we arrived at the station, we inquired about a bus, going to the street, that Jean-Claude had written for us, they told us, that the bus would not go that far, they told us the name of the ~~place~~ street to get off, we would have to walk a few blocks to reach our destination. Before going on the bus, my Dad told us, that we should walk separately, my Parents together, my Brother Fernand and I, my Brother Leon, by himself. It was a very beautiful day, a little ~~could~~ cool but with some sun, I felt that it was a good omen! we got off the bus, we

~~started~~ ~~to walk~~ straight up, like the man at the station, had indicated, as we walked, we realized that,

VI

We were walking out of town, very few houses, there were hardly any people. as we walked, we saw a family waiting already for Jean-Claude, as we passed them by, my Dad asked them, if anyone else was waiting? they didn't know for sure. we continue to walk, we stopped after a while and waited there, my Brother Fernand and I, continue to walk passed our Parents after a while we stopped, my Brother Leon passed us and stopped a little further away. As we were waiting, other families passed us by. Jean-Claude arrived in his truck, he picked up the 1st family then my Parents, then Fernand & me, and, and he did that all the way, picking up others. After everyone was seated, Jean-Claude started to count us, we were 22 people, the little children sitting on their Parents laps, 1 boy about 10 years, & and 2 teen agers, sat on the floor of the truck. We started to roll, We were not too comfortable, The Truck was big and wide. but, we could not move much! Jean Claude had put the cover on the Truck. Dear Mom, I will continue in a few days
love, Mom & Dad