

[1/1] Dear Willy!

[1/2] You'll probably be puzzled getting a letter after all these years [1/3] from me. After leaving Canada in the spring of 1942 [1/4] I spent several months in London, and [1/5] then I was sent to the [1/6] Middle East. In Baghdad, Cairo and Tel-Aviv [1/7] I edited a daily for Gen. Anders's army [1/8] and along with that army I later went on the [1/9] Italian campaign.² In 1946 I found myself in London where [1/10] I still support myself working as a [1/11] newspaper reporter.

[1/12] My wife and daughter (already 16 years old) are unfortunately [1/13] under harsh conditions in Poland. From Italy [1/14] I attempted to get them out of Poland, but I had [1/15] bad luck. Twice they were stopped at the border. [1/16] You can imagine what they have gone through [1/17] and what they are still going through. Our whole family in Lwow [1/18] perished—supposedly only Hala saved [1/19] herself—there only remain

[2/1-2] now people who are separated from me by the Iron Curtain.

[2/3] In the past two years I have renewed my efforts, [2/4] however, without results. Since war [2/5] is coming closer I have decided to make one more [2/6] desperate effort to bring them here from Poland. [2/7] This is usually very hard under the current conditions [2/8] and it is also very costly. I have mobilized [2/9] all the resources I could, but I am worried [2/10] that it's only half of what is necessary³, [2/11] to get my women out. Intermediaries [2/12] and smugglers are making incredible amounts of money [2/13-14] and demand at least a 1000 dollars per head.

[2/15] In this situation I have decided—conquering [2/16] my reasonable inner reservations—to turn [2/17] to you for help. Would you like to and [2/18] can you help? ...⁴ [2/19] ...⁵ : I understand that after all these years this letter

[3/1] might elicit quiet amazement and your new [3/2] family responsibilities might make your ears [3/3] deaf to my pleadings.⁶ However, I would like to [3/4] have a

¹ Written in 1950.

² Wladyslaw Anders, (1892-1970), was captured by the Russians after the partition of Poland in 1939, Anders was released from the Lubianka prison in 1941 to lead the Polish POWs from Russia into Persia, where the British had offered to arm and equip them to fight against the Germans in the Western Desert. The resulting corps, Polish II Corps, became one of the most redoubtable military formations of the war. Its principal, and unforgettable, achievement was to capture Monte Cassino, 17-18 May 1944, after three attempts by others had failed. Anders subsequently led it in the battles up the Adriatic Coast and in the clearance of the Po Valley. Most of II Corps chose exile at the end of the war, and Anders remained leader of their community in England until his death.

³ Underlined in the original

⁴ Illegible

⁵ Illegible

⁶ The collection contains records of financial transactions, which show that Professor Birnbaum responded to Dr. Rubel's pleadings. In 1937 Rubel helped Birnbaum get to the States by giving him an assignment as a reporter for the Polish daily he edited.

clear conscience before myself and God [3/5] that I did not overlook anything which might [3/6] save my family.

[3/7-8] Write me—my dear friend—simply what you think about this.

[3/9] What's going on with you? How is your [3/10] family life coming along? What do you think about the future? [3/11] We've lived through frightening nights. This monstrous [3/12] loss of our families! Unfortunately, the catastrophe [3/13] had the character of a total disaster. We were [3/14] and still are helpless in relation to it.

[3/15] Again, I apologize for burdening you [3/16] by asking such a big favor, but I am forced by [3/17] necessity to do it.

[3/18] ...⁷

[4/1] sending to you and yours many sincere [4/2] greetings and I remain yours,
[4/3] Ludwik

[4/4] My address:

[4/5] Dr. Ludwik Rubel

[4/6] 23, Terrapin Rd.

[4/7] London

[4/8] S.W. 17

⁷ This whole line is illegible.