

Zurich 25.I.45

[1/1] My Beloved Friend!

[1/2] I heartily thank you for your 22.IX letter and the news contained [1/3] therein about yourself and your [1/4] family in the States; I read them with a [1/5] great interest. I would be very happy if I ever got the chance [1/6] to meet "Your Lady" and if I ever got the chance to hug the child¹, which you so [1/7] deftly describe in your letters.

[1/8] My efforts to contact your [1/9] family in Poland, to find their address, to this day have not [1/10] yielded any results. The Red [1/11] Cross hasn't done anything, nor has it gotten any [1/12] correspondence from that part of the country, that is, the part to which until now [1/13] you could theoretically write. Besides this, relying on the dates [1/14] from your last letter, I asked the Red Cross [1/15] about Dr. Berger's family.

[2/1] Regarding the transfers:

[2/2-8]²

[2/9] You asked me about my plans for the future. I'm not making any, [2/10] because I'm not interested in the future—the [2/11] Germans murdered my whole family. You should understand that life for me holds no goals [2/12] nor value and that I would readily give it up for some [2/13] reasonable cause, for example, for the price of revenge against a few [2/14] Hitlerite criminals.

[2/15] My activities here were divided between the makeshift [2/16] Polish university in Winterthur and the [2/17] Polytechnic (Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule) in Zurich. [2/18] About 400 Polish internees of the Swiss [2/19] government are completing a polytechnic-level education in Hinterthur. In general,

[3/1] they also frequent the lectures [3/2] at the Zurich polytechnic, however, the exception being the few [3/3] subjects for which there are Polish lecturers here. [3/4] I was recommended for consideration for the Polytechnic in Zurich for [3/5] math lectures, that is, for a cycle of three semesters per year, [3/6-7] that cover various mathematical topics³, however, this year we didn't [3/8] have enough fry.⁴ For the first semester our department of [3/9] electrical engineering and construction only managed to have [3/10] four students sign up. It just wasn't worth it to [3/11] arrange separate lectures for them, so we allowed them to [3/12] frequent the lectures at the Polytechnic in Zurich.

¹ Daughter Ann Birnbaum

² This section was omitted because it details money transfers to H. Schraef by Z.W. Birnbaum. Some of the figures and abbreviations are obscure and the omission of this section does not detract from the larger issues which are discussed in the other parts of the letter.

³ In the original Mr. Schraef mentions different specializations within mathematics; they are not familiar to the translator, therefore they were omitted.

⁴ That is, students, as in, small fry.

[3/13] My responsibilities at the school consist of various odd jobs: for now I [3/14] conscript math assistants to do military service, [3/15] because of a lack of qualified [3/17] Swiss candidates. The Police in charge of foreigners allows me to fill the positions in on a short-term basis. This semester [3/18] I completed these duties⁵ for about six weeks, until the end of November, and [3/19] in February I will have two further weeks of work. It's a terribly

[4/1] boring and demanding job. It consists in directing [4/2] exercises and colloquia with countless groups of students and [4/3] correcting hundreds of notebooks.

[4/4] I read a bit during my free time. I [4/5] publish an article in October in *Mitteilungen d. Vereinigung Schweiz...*⁶, [4/6] entitled, "Uber partiele [4/7] Bestandsundenrungen un eine Klasse neur Integrationprocesse."⁷ [4/8] I asked the publishers to send you 20 copies—[4/9] besides the two for yourself and Dr. Z.—which I [4/10] ask you to store away.

[4/11] I also ask you to keep the attached document which [4/12] verifies my activities in Winterthure.

[4/13] I send you sincere greetings and a strong handshake [4/14] for yourself and Dr. Z and a courteous [4/15] bow for your Wife (and congratulations for the promotion).

[4/16] Sincerely Yours,
[4/17] Henry

⁵ The original word is illegible, this is a best guess

⁶ The rest of the school's name is illegible.

⁷ The title of this article is barely legible, therefore there might be a few errors in the transcription.